



why can't our children

How to tackle the problem at home and in school
PAGE 17



Ripping Pam off

Alan Coren finds poster vandals are stealing bits of the Baywatch diva, P18



Complimentary books
Token 4, PAGE 11

Cricket lovely cricket

Last chance to join the £10,000 game
PAGE 44



Payments roll in for outside work

Heath heads MPs defying earnings rule

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A DOZEN Conservatives and two Labour MPs last night laid themselves open to official complaints by refusing to reveal details of how much they earn from their activities outside Parliament.

The former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath and three former ministers — David Mellor, Norman Lamont and Kenneth Baker — were among those who angered colleagues by declining to conform with new rules requiring them to divulge outside earnings that result from their membership of Parliament.

The register of members' interests nevertheless discloses that Conservative MPs collect more than £2 million a year from consultancies and other work, while Labour MPs earn about £600,000 — most of it in contributions towards office expenses from trade unions and other organisations.

Twenty MPs revealed that they at least doubled their parliamentary salary of £34,000 by outside work.

Labour's former deputy leader Roy Hattersley declared the highest supplementary income — nearly £10,000 from his work as a freelance journalist — although some of the Conservatives who did not give details are thought to have earned more.

The top Conservative earner to declare was the former employment minister Patrick Nicholls, whose entry suggested earnings of up to £76,000. However, he said last night that the actual figure had been £54,000. The discrepancy was, he said, the result of the rule that says each sum should be declared in bands of £5,000.

The rules were introduced on the recommendation of Lord Nolan at the end of his inquiry into standards in public life after a series of "sleaze" allegations, culminating in the cash-for-questions scandal. Those who fail to disclose their outside earnings may be reported to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sir Gordon



Baker: one of four former ministers not conforming

Downey. He said last night that he expected a significant increase in the number of complaints. It is understood that many MPs consulted him about what should go in the register, but he says in its introduction that there had been inconsistencies in the way MPs had responded and that some had had difficulty interpreting the rules.

Labour is to press Sir Gordon to take action against those who failed to declare — including its own Tony Banks and John Gilbert — and some Conservative backbenchers last night voiced deep irritation with some of their colleagues. One said: "The fat cats who command the big fees have kept quiet. The rest of us have come clean and shown ourselves up." And another said: "The bigger they are, the more likely they are to get away with it."

Downing Street said last night that the Prime Minister wanted to see the highest standards in public life, but added that any concerns over the entries were a matter for Sir Gordon.

Sir Edward Heath, who declined to go along with earlier rules calling on MPs to give details of their Lloyd's membership, declared unspecified earnings from "writing books and press articles, lecturing, making television and radio broadcasts" on behalf of the Dumps Gap

Company — an unlimited private company of which he is chairman.

Last year, in the final pre-Nolan register, he listed six types of paid employment, including being an adviser to the China Ocean Shipping Company and development adviser to Kleinwort Benson China Management.

Mr Mellor's lengthy submission declares ten consultancies, including work for British Aerospace, shipbuilders Vosper Thornycroft and accountants Ernst & Young. But he states: "It is not now, and never has been a contractual duty, implied or otherwise, that my services are provided in any way upon my being an MP. The existence of these contracts is not dependent in any way upon my being an MP, nor does the duration of these contracts bear any relationship to any parliamentary timetable."

He also stated that all his overseas visits during the period covered by the register were in relation to his business interests and did not arise from his membership of the Commons. The sole exception was a four-day trip to Bahrain in February last year as a guest of the Bahrain Government. He did, however, declare fees from journalism, television and radio appearances, and from lecturing and public speaking. These included a contract to appear on LWT's *Cross Talk* programme, for which he received less than £5,000 a year.

Mr Hattersley wished that other MPs had been as open as he had: "I took advice from Sir Gordon about what conformed to the spirit as well as the letter of the House of Commons's decision on members' interests," he said. "He advised me I should declare my earnings on two of my contracts. That I did. I very much regret that other members did not follow the same course."

The big earners, page 10
Leading article, page 19



Anthony Williams describes his picture of the Queen as "an honest portrait and a good likeness"

Artist defends his careworn Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE latest artist to paint the Queen insisted yesterday that he had produced an honest portrait — despite making her look as though she had reached her seventy years the hard way.

Anthony Williams, 31, won his £15,000 commission from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters after being judged the best young portraitist of 1995. His work, which goes on view at the Mail Galleries in London today, is the result of six sittings, during which he felt obliged to complain to the Queen's private secretary that his subject would not sit still.

The 4ft by 3ft canvas shows the Queen's face and hands as

wrinkled, puffy, rubbery and distinctly elderly, whereas recent photographs of her birthday celebrations suggested that she was wearing her years with grace and relaxation. The artist, however, is unrepentant.

"I believe this is an honest portrait and a good likeness. It was hard to come up with a fresh approach to such a familiar face, but I have not deviated from the known image. I was not trying to go out of my way to shock, but I was trying to find something deeper. I was not trying to make any political statement at all; this is a pure portrait," Mr Williams said.

Other artists last night supported him. Daphne Todd, president of the Royal Society

of Portrait Painters, described the picture as "absolutely tremendous." "It is one of the best portraits that have ever been painted of the Queen. She doesn't look at all dreadful."

"You've got to give the painting time because it is made up of hundreds and hundreds of minute observations. At first sight, you are aware of the wrinkles and the size of the hands, larger than life-size. But when you stand in front of it, humanity and dignity comes over. There is spirit in this portrait, an indomitable spirit."

Ms Todd acknowledged that the painting "might well be controversial" in details such as a sagged fingernail and small scratches in the flesh, and she likened a small

wound from the Queen's diamond bracelet to the mark of stockings in one of Rembrandt's nude women. "Every little indentation and scratch you get in life he has recorded. It is slightly terrifying."

The Royal Academician Leonard Rosoman said: "The

Continued on page 2, col 5

Dorrell accused of betrayal over care for elderly

By JILL SHERMAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

STEPHEN DORRELL last night outlined long-awaited plans to prevent pensioners having to sell their homes to pay for the costs of residential care. The Government was immediately accused by the opposition parties of "betraying the elderly."

The Health Secretary announced three different options to encourage people to take out insurance policies against the risk of needing expensive care in residential or nursing homes.

Insisting that the thrifty should be rewarded for saving up for their care, Mr Dorrell said the changes — which would come into effect in 1997 — would be included in the Queen's Speech this autumn.

People will be able to choose between insuring their assets, buying an annuity to provide an income until death, or having flexible pensions which pay more money in later years when they might need help.

The Government will reward those who buy such policies by increasing the amount of capital they can own without having to use it to pay for their care.

But the plans came under a barrage of attack from Opposition parties and charities who insisted that the insurance premiums would be prohibitively expensive for those most at risk of losing their homes.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, pointed out that a pensioner couple would have to pay a minimum of £10,000 in premiums to meet their care costs.

Accusing the Government of election bribery, Ms Harman said: "This is a

Continued on page 2, col 5

Frank Field, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Double life term

Steven Heaney, 36, a factory worker from Eastham, Wirral, who lured two young boys to their deaths during a summer afternoon's fishing trip, was given a double life sentence. Page 3

Electricity bid

Midlands Electricity, barred from being taken over by PowerGen two weeks ago, received a joint bid from two American utilities. Page 25

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Yard issue photo of prime suspect in gun rape hunt

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND STEWART TENDLER

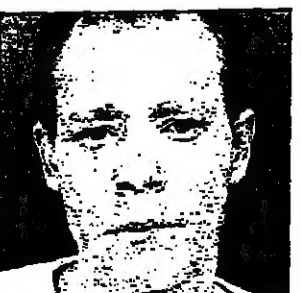
DETECTIVES hunting a rapist and armed robber yesterday named their top suspect.

Scotland Yard officers also issued a photograph of Rodney Michael Smith, 30, to protect the public. Police are worried that Mr Smith, from Grays, Essex, could have a death wish and may seek a confrontation.

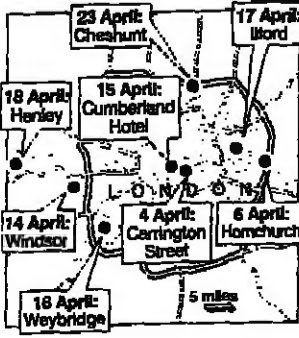
After the suicide of a close friend in 1994, he allegedly said: "I'll be in heaven with him soon." The friend shot himself while under police siege.

The man police are hunting appears to use the M25 to move from one attack to another and always produces a handgun. So far he has stolen cash and jewellery worth about £20,000. The attacks began on April 4 when a 32-year-old croupier was abducted in a Mayfair car park, forced to draw money from two cashpoints, before being raped and dumped with her Jaguar car. Other attacks were at:

- Hornchurch, Essex, where a car was stolen on April 6.
- A West End hotel on April 15. A Finnish woman was forced to strip and sexually assaulted. Her jewellery was stolen.
- Ilford, Essex, on April 17 where a woman, 32, was attacked, her Toyota car and jewellery stolen.
- Henley, Oxfordshire on April 18 a woman was hit in the face and her jewellery stolen. She was dumped with her Mercedes in a lay-by.
- In the last attack, on April 23, a woman in Cheshunt.



Smith: 'death wish'



Kremlin divided in spy row

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON

A WIDENING rift emerged within the Russian Government yesterday about how to proceed in the spying dispute with Britain. Hawkish security chiefs demanded mass expulsions from the British Embassy, but Russian diplomats sought a compromise with London.

In a day of contradictory signals from Moscow, the Federal Security Service said that a list of nine British diplomats involved in an espionage network had been drawn up and that they would be sent home.

Negotiations were still under way last night between London and Moscow to limit the damage arising from the murky row as Malcolm Rifkind assessed the latest report from the British Ambassador to Moscow. The Foreign Office stuck to a bland formula, insisting that all Russian allegations were unfounded and



"He can't be British, comrade, he can read"

expressing the hope that the threat of expulsions would be withdrawn. Details of the talks between Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, are unlikely to be made public.

The expulsion list was drawn up on evidence gathered by counter-intelligence agents during the interrogation last month of a Russian citizen who admitted being a British spy and named his contacts in the embassy.

New targets, page 15
Leading article and letters, page 19

THE FOURTH ESTATE BY JEFFREY ARCHER.

WHERE WILL YOU READ YOURS?



THE STORY OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MEDIA TYCOONS

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48

LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
SIMON JENKINS	18

ARTS	33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE	43
COURT & SOCIAL	20

SPORT	42-46, 48
MEDIA & MARKETING	23
LAW REPORT	22

Commons touch on voluntary redundancy

DUE to a slip of the tongue at Prime Minister's Questions, Paddy Ashdown attacked Serbia yesterday when he meant to attack Croatia. Nobody noticed.

Did the PM realise, he asked, that the biggest threat to peace in the Balkans now came from the ambitions of "a Greater Serbia" rather than those fighting for a greater Croatia? Here the Liberal Democrat Leader stopped to correct himself. It was those fighting for a greater Croatia, not a Greater Serbia, who were the threat, he explained.

I looked down. Miss Boothroyd was staring into the middle distance. Mr Major fiddling with his notes and Tony Blair chatting with his

mates. MPs were paying no attention at all. Greater Croatia, Greater Serbia... would anybody have noticed if Ashdown had discerned the Balkan threat coming from Greater Manchester? It must tempt him to try speaking utter gobbledegook or lapsing into iambic pentameters, just to see whether MPs, the Press, or anyone else, wakes up.

Perhaps Spencer Batiste (C, Elmet) was right: MPs have sadly diluted their impact. Under the Ten Minute Rule at 5.00pm he introduced a Bill to reduce the membership of the Commons from its planned 659 (after the next election) to 500. If there were fewer MPs, explained an earnest Mr Batiste, the world might take



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

more notice of them. Or "us". It was notable that throughout his speech the rump of 500 to which Batiste planned to reduce the Commons was referred to as "us".

His case was coolly and cogently made out. MPs had urged industry to improve its productivity, Batiste said. They had slimmed the Civil Service, the Health Service, and every other service. They urged organisations to be leaner and fitter.

Every organisation but their own. So far. But now was the

time, Mr Batiste concluded, for the ultimate sacrifice; now the time had finally come for MPs to "lead by example".

"Now is the time..." — we leapt a little ahead of Mr Batiste's logic, anticipating his conclusion — "for 150 colleagues and I to stand down from the parliamentary process and allow the constituency map to be redrawn with fewer and larger constituencies".

But no, 150 MPs would indeed have to go, but this was to make "us" more effective in

the next Parliament. That modest "and I" was never volunteered. After Batiste sat down, John Butcher (C, Coventry SW) rose to do the decent thing. Butcher's proposal was for an altogether more dramatic cull, reducing the Commons to some 300 members — but not including Mr Butcher. He was to stand down at the next election he explained.

In your sketchwriter's view, John Butcher's quiet thoughtfulness and sorrowful sense of the impotence of the backbench MP — his personal willingness to stand aside — should disqualify him from the cull.

Such wisdom is rare. He must stay. It's the ones who

want to stay who should go, or be "processed," as the new lingo has it.

The Junior Agriculture minister Tony Baldry, asked how many cattle were awaiting the abattoir, and the renderers, told MPs that some 120,000 cows were now in line "for processing".

What revisions to literature does this new style of minister-speak suggest? "Thou shalt not process?" As Othello says to Desdemona's corpse: "I kissed thee ere I processed thee." A lawyer himself, Mr Batiste will know Shakespeare's line: "Let's process all the lawyers." And not just the lawyers. "I'm seeing the renderers tomorrow," Mr Baldry told MPs. Good.

Peers vote to close cash for questions libel law loophole

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE House of Lords passed an amendment last night that will give MPs and peers extensive new rights to sue newspapers over reports of their parliamentary activities.

Senior judges and peers from all sides voted by 157 to 57 to overturn part of the 300-year-old Bill of Rights which prevents MPs from taking action if they believe their reputations have been defamed in connection with their parliamentary work.

The new measures have been added to the Defamation Bill after a court ruling preventing Neil Hamilton, Tory MP for Tatton, and the lobbying company, Ian Greer Associates, from suing *The Guardian* newspaper.

Mr Hamilton's attempt to sue the newspaper over a "cash for questions" allegation was stayed by the courts after the newspaper successfully pleaded that the privileges conferred on MPs by Article Nine of the Bill of Rights, 1689,



Lord Lester: predicted conflict with the courts

meant that a court could not inquire, even at the request of an MP, into anything he had said or done in Parliament.

The newspaper argued that this rendered it impossible to mount a full defence of justification since it could not cross-examine Mr Hamilton.

If the amendment is passed in the Commons, it will allow members to waive their im-

munity and sue for libel, but absolute privilege will still protect MPs from being sued over what they have said about anyone or what they have done in Parliament.

The amendment will now go to the Commons where Tory MPs will be given a free vote on the issue.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former Appeal Court judge, who voted against the amendment, said: "It is nearly impossible to exaggerate the constitutional importance of the changes to parliamentary privilege."

Lord Hoffmann, a Lord of the Appeal, tabled the amendment which was debated last night during the third reading of the Bill. After a heated debate, which was watched from the gallery by Mr Hamilton, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, made it clear that he also supported the change. The Lord Chancellor's office said that if the new measures were passed in the Commons, Mr Hamilton could restart his action.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat peer opposed the amendment. "This amendment is fatally flawed and would infringe fundamental principles of our unwritten constitution," he said. "It would operate arbitrarily and it would extend parliamentary privilege in a manner that would unnecessarily interfere with free speech."

Lord Lester said the change would mean Parliament had to surrender its collective privilege to any individual member. It would also create new conflicts between Parliament and the courts if lawyers were allowed to suggest that a member was lying in the House. "It would be most unfortunate if this amend-



Neil Hamilton intends to pursue his action if MPs support the amendment to the Defamation Bill

ment were pursued for political purposes to support Mr Neil Hamilton's particular interests in his litigation," he said.

He added that Mr Hamilton should have appealed to the higher courts, where he would have had "reasonable prospects of success".

Mr Hamilton was forced to resign as Corporate Affairs Minister after *The Guardian* claimed that he accepted payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, for asking questions on behalf of Harrods. They also stated that he had failed to declare a six-day visit to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Hamilton wrote to peers

before the vote setting out his position, stating that he had been denied basic justice. Many of his friends turned out to support his claim, including Baroness Thatcher and Lord Parkinson.

Last night Mr Hamilton was jubilant. "It was a wonderful debate and there were many heavyweights against me, but most peers realised that I was caught up in an anomaly. The Bill of Rights is there to protect citizens and give them a fair hearing, which I am being denied."

"I can't presume on the Commons passing this amendment... but if this amendment is passed newspapers will have to be far more careful what they say."

Jobs before monetary union, says Brown

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN said yesterday that a Europe-wide assault on unemployment was a key pre-requisite for a successful single currency.

The Shadow Chancellor used a speech to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn to dispel suggestions that a Labour government would inevitably sign up to monetary union, while underlining his party's strong pro-European credentials and reaffirming its commitment to a "co-operative, integrated and dynamic European Union".

He also demanded full participation by Britain in the discussions leading up to monetary union, saying that Britain "cannot afford forever a government attitude which sees us hovering half in and half out".

Mr Brown's insistence that unemployment must be tackled first by the EU was clearly intended to make it clear that Labour would be no softer than the Tories when it came to the crucial decision of whether Britain should join.

Mr Brown said: "You cannot build a monetary union on doing nothing about 20 million unemployed. It is the threat of unemployment which is responsible for the widespread jobs insecurity which is depressing confidence and growth in Britain and across Europe."

Mr Brown laid stress on the "substantial" potential benefits of a monetary union, particularly stability, lower interest rates and reduced currency speculation. He said: "Britain can no longer afford to stand and carp from the sidelines. In trade, and in macroeconomic management, isolationism is not an option. We put our future in jeopardy by being on the outside."

European defence strategy advanced

Europe's attempt to forge its own defence strategy moved forward yesterday with proposals that will enable European countries to tackle peacekeeping operations using Nato equipment.

Ministers from the Western European Union, meeting in Birmingham, focused on the need to strengthen the WEU, long the distant cousin of Nato, which holds the European pillar of the alliance but opposes attempts to integrate it into the European Union. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said Bonn wanted a merger between the WEU and EU, with the WEU receiving instructions from the Council of Ministers. But Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said: "We are very happy for a closer relationship to develop between the EU and the WEU. We don't want to see it being taken over by the EU."

Fake BSE farmer fined

A farmer has been fined £30,000 for falsifying documents to suggest that cattle he sold had come from farms which had never had any cases of "mad cow" disease. David Dunster, 65, of Dartington, Devon, admitted five charges of applying false trade descriptions to 44 cattle at Plymouth Crown Court. He said they had been reared on BSE-free farms but they were traced to herds on other farms which had suffered BSE outbreaks in the previous six years. He was also ordered to pay £8,500 costs.

Killer jailed for life

A man was jailed for life for setting alight his lodgings and killing his landlady and her two young children. A medical report stated that Darren Carr was suffering from a psychopathic personality disorder when he splashed petrol about the house in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and ignited it. Carr, 25, admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility at Birmingham Crown Court. Carr moved into the house after answering an advertisement seeking a rent-free lodger who would babysit.

Burglars kill woman, 94

A woman of 94 is believed to have been suffocated in her bed by burglars who entered her home through an open window. It was the fifth burglary in two years at the home of Dorothy Wood in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Miss Wood, a former midwife and school nurse, was deaf and partially blind. She had lived alone for many years and was found dead by neighbours. Detective Superintendent Gary Haigh said: "Miss Wood was an independent lady living her life with dignity."

Hell's Angel ordered out

A former Hell's Angel was yesterday ordered out of the theatre shed where he has been squatting for the past 18 months. John Warlock, 53, was given 14 days to leave the hut in the grounds of York Theatre Royal. After the hearing at York County Court, Mr Warlock said: "I am not moving. I might have a sit-in or something instead." Theatre staff allowed him to move in to the lean-to because he was living rough on the streets in the winter. The theatre now wants the shed to store empty crates from the bar.

'Real' party launched

The "Real Tory Party" was launched last night to woo disenchanted Conservatives who cannot face voting for Labour but have had enough of John Major. The venture has been organised by 30 disaffected former Conservative councillors and supporters in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Founder members want to return to "the old values of the family, decency and the community". They will stand against Tory candidates whom they believe have cheated on the "Tory ethic".

Gay parents case

Social workers at Inverclyde council have refused to intervene in the case of a lesbian couple who were criticised by the Church of Scotland for bringing up a child on a "timeshare" with two gay men. Ruth Henry, the child's natural mother by artificial insemination, has defended the pact which means that two-year-old Jacob spends weekdays with her and her partner at their home in Gourrock, Strathclyde, and weekends with his father and partner who live near by.

Clue on missing girls

Two girls who ran away from boarding school told a member of the public they were planning to hitch-hike to Fort William, police said yesterday. Officers throughout Scotland were following up reported sightings of Aileen McGhie and Kirsty Ann Boyd, both 15, who disappeared eight days ago from Lomond School, Helensburgh, near Dumbarton. Inspector Brian Lennox said: "We are still hoping the girls will get in touch. They must know people are looking for them."

Plan for eco-village

Environmental protesters applied for planning permission for a "sustainable, low-impact eco-village" on a wasteland site in Wandsworth, south London, owned by Guinness. The 500-strong group of "land campaigners" are already constructing a tented community on the site in protest at the amount of land lying derelict in the capital. A spokesman for Wandsworth Council said: "Without the landowner's permission, an application seems pointless."

Model, 12, put 'on hold'

The parents of a 12-year-old girl described as the next supermodel have decided to defer her career. MPs and health experts had criticised the decision to launch Rachel Kirkby on the international fashion scene after she was signed by the model agency Select. In a statement, Select and James and Gaye Kirkby said: "In the best interests of Rachel Kirkby, Select and Mr and Mrs Kirkby have decided to put Rachel's modelling career on hold."

Elderly 'betrayed'

Continued from page 1
betrayal. No one told today's elderly that their care was to be their responsibility. They were promised care from the cradle to the grave and that promise is now broken.

The Government's proposals, outlined in a consultation paper yesterday, follow growing concern that people are being forced to sell their homes to pay for the high cost of long-term care in residential or nursing homes.

But critics immediately claimed that the plans would benefit the well-off and fail to resolve the basic problem of funding long-term care.

Mr Dorrell said that roughly one in five people who reached retirement would need long-term residential care, costing up to £20,000 a year. At present people have to contribute to their care costs if they have savings of over £10,000, and have to pay the full costs if their assets are over £16,000.

Mr Dorrell said the individual rather than the state should take principal respon-

sibility. "We shall continue to provide a safety net. In addition, we shall ensure a framework is in place to encourage people to provide for themselves and protect the interests of those who do," he said.

The Association of British Insurers and Bupa, Britain's biggest private health providers, were optimistic.

"A move like this is bound to open up the market. It should ensure a wider range of products and premiums will probably be able to come down as more customers show interest and competition increases," a spokesman for the association said.

But the plan was criticised by charities representing the elderly.

Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs for Help the Aged, said: "How are the large numbers of pensioners who live on a very low income but do not receive means-tested benefits going to find the money to pay for such a scheme? This is a short-term solution to a long-term problem."

Artist defends his careworn Queen

Continued from page 1
first thing that strikes one is the extraordinary drawing in the painting. It's very much a painting of an oldish person. I suppose that certain people won't like that. But in the drawing of the hands and face, it's quite remarkable. It has some of the quality of a Florentine drawing in it. In some ways, it is very like her."

The painting was not executed without difficulty. "My first sittings were in the Yellow Room at the front of Buckingham Palace; the later ones were moved to a room at the back, where the light was

completely different," Mr Williams said.

The artist is relatively new to portraits, having previously concentrated on still life and landscapes. He won the commission on the basis of a painting of Dr Michael Adie, the retired Bishop of Guildford; his only previous subject of note had been Lady Moore, wife of a former private secretary to the Queen.

All portraits of the Queen tend to be judged against Annigoni's heroic 1955 portrait, which is destined to become the Holbein of the reign. Even that ruffled the

art establishment, and no later portrait of the monarch has won universal acclaim.

Looking at a photograph of the image, Richard Cork, art critic of *The Times*, said: "Nobody could accuse this dismal image of blandness or flattery, the besetting sins of modern Royal portraiture. Pinched and glum, the ageing Queen stares towards a cold light. She seems to have been stripped of all her monarchical trappings, and frowns as she contemplates the future. This is the portrait of a woman permanently scarred by her annus

horribilis. She appears to inhabit some glacial region, frozen by the chill of public hostility towards the royal family as a whole."

"The glamour of Annigoni's portrait of the youthful Elizabeth is utterly removed from this painting. She has become a Winter Queen, with hands raw and chapped enough to have suffered from arctic exposure. No comfort can be drawn from the portrait, and to that extent it can be commended for its toughness. But it fails to offer any deeper insight into its subject beyond a general air of depression."

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End of innocence on a summer's afternoon for two young friends who shared a love of angling

Life for loner who lured boys to death at fishing ponds

By KATE ALDERSON

A LONER who enticed two young boys to their deaths during a summer afternoon's fishing trip was given a double life sentence yesterday. Steven Heaney strangled and stabbed his victims, then sat at home watching a murder mystery on television as police searched for the two young friends.

Heaney, 36, a factory worker from Eastham, Wirral, pleaded guilty at Liverpool Crown Court to murdering Paul Barker, 13, and Robert Gee, 12, at fishing ponds just a mile from their homes. The bodies of the two classmates were found 200 yards apart on July 30 last year, the day after the murders. They lay next to their prized mountain bikes and fishing equipment.

The killer, balding and with a pencil-thin moustache, looked gaunt and hunched as he held on to a courtroom rail with both hands during sentencing. Mr Justice Ognall told him: "You put a brutal end to two innocent young lives. The medical reports indicate that you are fully responsible for what you did. In the light of your actions that day and indeed days before and all the surrounding circumstances, there must be a profound anxiety as to the continuing risk you present if consideration is given to your release from custody."

During the 27-minute hearing the court was told by Richard Henriques, QC, for the prosecution, that Paul and Robert had set off for a fishing trip to Carpies pond, Eastham, at about 1pm. Four other boys were also at the pond, and there was not enough room for Paul and Robert. Heaney directed the two to a second pond. Within half an hour, he followed.

Heaney managed to separate the school friends by suggesting Paul should come to look at the fourth in a series of ponds, while Robert remained 250 metres away at the second pond. Mr Henriques said: "At pond number four, it



Paul Barker



Robert Gee

was beyond question that the defendant strangled Paul Barker with a wire ligature that several times encircled his neck and was pulled tight from behind."

Heaney then returned to Robert, took him to the third of the ponds, and killed him there. In addition, the boys' trousers had been pulled down and his T-shirt removed before he was stabbed.

When the boys' parents became concerned that their sons had not returned home by 6.30pm, they contacted police. As officers searched for them, Heaney was sitting at home with his parents watching the detective series, *Colombo*. Robert's body was found at 5.30 the next morning by police. At 12.45pm, Paul's

body was discovered.

When Heaney was interviewed the next day, police became suspicious and cautioned him. He did not seek to deny responsibility for the deaths. He was never able to give detailed accounts of how he caused their deaths or a reason for his actions.

David Steer, QC, for the defence, said Heaney previously had an unblemished character and did not wish to prolong the suffering of the families. He said Heaney's pleas of guilty were consistent with his feelings of remorse.

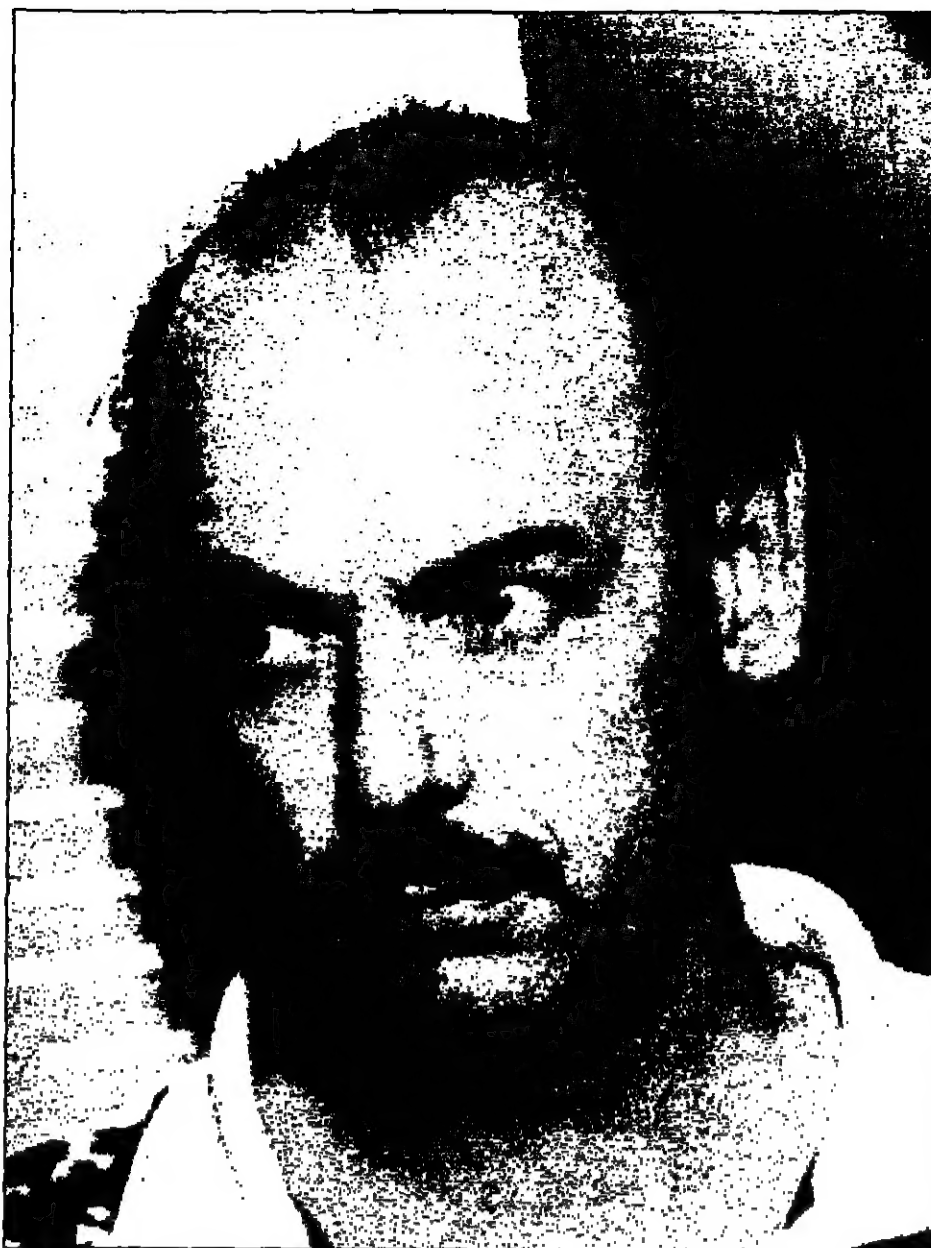
The parents of the boys were not in court yesterday, but asked for a transcript of the proceedings, which the judge said he would "unhesitatingly" make available to them. Paul's parents, Richard and Pat, were active members of their tight-knit community and the whole Barker family were very close.

Paul was a member of the Boys' Brigade unit at St David's United Reformed Church, which his father ran. His grandmother, Anne, often helped out.

The 12-year-old boy had a sharing nature and an affectionate relationship with his 11-year-old sister, Hannah. He was especially devoted to fishing, which became his hobby when he was eight. His grandfather, William, 78, took him on his first fishing trip.

Robbie, an only child, was a fellow pupil at South Wirral High School. He was smaller than Paul and enjoyed sport, fishing and outdoor activities. He was a fanatical football fan who loved going to watch Liverpool or Tranmere Rovers and enjoyed going abroad on holiday with his parents, Lenny and Kathy.

Tranmere players John Aldridge, now the club manager, and Shaun Garnett attended the boys' joint funeral last August. The soccer anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone* was played at the service at St David's United Reformed Church, in Eastham, and a minute's silence was observed before a Tranmere game.



Steven Heaney, who lived with his parents and was said to be terrified of girls

'Heaney the Weeny' lived for Army cadets

By KATE ALDERSON

STEVEN HEANEY had no adult friends. He lived with his elderly parents and sought out the company of boys and young men.

His passion in life was the Army Cadet Force, which he joined in 1985. He had no regular Army experience but because of his enthusiasm rose quickly to the rank of staff sergeant and worked as an instructor responsible for training 30 teenage boys attached to the 7th Royal Corps of Transport in Birkenhead.

He dedicated himself to the Cadets and spent his time running the unit, which was meant to open on only two evenings a week. He would open up at least four times a week, sometimes when there were no youngsters there. He boasted about his shooting skills

to cadets and falsely claimed he was the youngest ever corporal in the Army and a military policeman discharged on medical grounds. Former Sergeant Major John Cowley, 51, who ran another Army attachment near by, became suspicious of his colleague, describing him as a "time-bomb" waiting to explode.

"We all knew there was something creepy about him," he said. "He seemed a bit too interested in the children. He never showed any interest in women and he refused to have girls in his unit. I made an official complaint in 1988 but apparently nothing was done about it."

Mr Cowley discovered Heaney was opening up his unit's hut every day and that teenagers were turning up on a daily basis to play darts and pool. Heaney claimed the boys would rather

be with him than at school. "I told him it was insane," Mr Cowley said. "Instructors are not supposed to fraternise with boys unaccompanied because it could leave them open to all sorts of allegations."

He also took cadets away on unofficial camping trips without informing his superiors. Mr Cowley said: "He once took my son away with him on an official ACF trip to Belgium. When he came back my lad said he always felt uncomfortable with Heaney."

"He said Heaney would play rough and tumble with the boys but it always went too far. He would pin the lads down in a manner that went beyond the playful and it scared my lad."

Rumours that Heaney was homosexual were rife in the ACF. "Heaney was always very effeminate and seemed terrified of girls," Mr Cowley

said. "He never had a girlfriend but you could understand that because he was so creepy. He scared women and I think he knew that. He was only really comfortable around young boys."

Mr Cowley said he lied about his rank and claimed to be an officer to people who did not know him. He wore his uniform as often as possible and was the only Army member who went home after an exercise still wearing black face camouflage. "He would buy Army equipment and knives."

Steve Brown, 25, a former cadet, remembered Heaney as a man who lived for the ACF. "It seemed like his whole life. We all thought he was a baby and it was almost as if he was younger than us. We called him Heaney the Weeny."

He left the ACF in 1990 after an apparent dispute over missing money.



Louise McSherry: she was approached at Carpies pond

Killer asked girl to take off her top

By ADRIAN LEE

A SCHOOLGIRL described how she was confronted by Steven Heaney five days before he murdered Robert Gee and Paul Barker at the same spot. Louise McSherry, 15, said she was terrified when he produced a nine-inch fishing knife and tried to lure her into some bushes.

"I can't help thinking it could have been me," said Louise, who was fishing alone at the pond, known as Carpies pond, in Eastham, Wirral. "He told me his name was Steve and he was in the Army and was a martial arts expert. He seemed very nervous. He kept pacing behind me and I felt frightened but I tried not to show it."

Then Heaney pulled out the knife and some plastic

binding. "My rod was dipping into the water and he said the knife would help support it. I began packing my things up slowly."

"He said I had a very fit body and asked if I had a sunbather. He suggested I take my top off so I would catch the sun. He asked me a few times. Heaney then tried to entice her into the bushes behind the pool. "He said he could hear a baby duck and he was going to have a look. He asked if I was going with him. I picked up my gear and as we walked I turned off towards my house."

The incident was not reported to police. Louise's mother, Susan, said: "When Robbie and Paul were killed I kept thinking how it could easily have been my daughter."

Olympic athletes lose legal rights

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE Olympic rowing champions Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent yesterday became the first members of the British team to sign an agreement that will force athletes to forfeit their legal rights or be barred from competing in the Atlanta Games.

Athletes, their coaches and agents reacted furiously to the move by the International Olympic Committee that obliges competitors to accept the ruling of the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport. Vincente Modahl, the husband of Diane, who was cleared of a doping offence in March after a 19-month legal battle, said: "If Diane had signed this before the 1994 Commonwealth Games she would have been found guilty by the court in Canada and would have had no chance of challenging the verdict later."

John Biecourt, a leading agent, said: "This will cause a huge rampus. It is draconian." A clause in the team members' agreement of the

British Olympic Association states that a competitor has to "submit the dispute for exclusive and final determination" to CAS. The court was set up by the IOC, although it prides itself on its independence. Its members include 12 international lawyers.

In the IOC entry form for Atlanta, the competitor has to agree not to "institute any claim, arbitration or litigation, or seek any other form of relief in any other court or tribunal".

Bruce Mellstrom, the BOA lawyer, said that the agreement was operative only for the Games but British competitors were being warned that it was legally binding. "It is not the intention to take away the civil rights of athletes. The CAS is a quick, easy, non-expensive way to settle disputes."

Asked about the rights of individuals, he said: "People have the choice of whether they want to accept them and compete in the Games — or not."

Oyston 'victim of conspiracy'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE tycoon Owen Oyston yesterday told the court where he is being tried on rape charges that he had been the victim of a conspiracy by two government ministers.

The millionaire chairman of Blackpool Football Club said Lord Blaker, formerly the Blackpool South MP Peter Blaker, and the ex-ports minister Robert Atkins, MP for South Ribble, had mounted the conspiracy against him and members of the Labour Party in the North West.

Mr Oyston, 62, a life-long Labour supporter, told Liverpool Crown Court that he had 48 hours of tape-recorded conversations between Lord Blaker, Mr Atkins, a Blackpool businessman called William Harrison, a man named Michael Murrin "and a whole range of other senior people in the Tory party".

The tapes showed that Lord Blaker, William Harrison and Robert Atkins — two ministers of the Government — were running a conspiracy

against me and members of the North West Labour Party," he said. Mr Oyston said he had failed to have a civil action against those responsible because of a lawyer's mistake, but was pursuing his case through the European Court of Human Rights.

Earlier a detective had told the court, where Mr Oyston denies raping two teenagers, that in February last year the tycoon had told him he believed his arrest was linked to the conspiracy. Detective Constable Martin Hughes said Mr Oyston had told him his arrest at his home, Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, had come only three weeks before his civil case against the two politicians had been due to come before the High Court.

He had alleged that a "very nasty and vicious" campaign had been waged against him for ten to 12 years. As well as the rape charges Mr Oyston denies one charge of indecent assault. The case continues.

Harley Street tenants twitch after order to put up the net curtains

By TIM JONES

TENANTS occupying some of the most expensive and exclusive properties in Britain have been told they must cover their windows with net or lace curtains.

The order, which will cause a flutter of dismay among chic interior designers, applies to the estate of Lord Howard de Walden, one of the country's wealthiest landowners.

His 1,200 properties, thought to be worth about £250 million, are mostly in the West End of London and include addresses in Harley Street and Wimpole Street.

For decades, net curtains have had a bad image, being associated with nosy, interfering neighbours, who betray their presence by twitching them.

In spite of that, the estate

gazette reminds tenants, who include prominent doctors and dentists, that whatever the dictates of fashion they must hang the curtains "to protect the estate's elegant residential character".

The gazette admits some people regard net as old hat but draws the attention of tenants to a clause in their lease which states that windows "must be properly cleaned at least once in every month and at all times be kept fitted with curtains or lace, net or other material approved by the landlord".

It adds: "Up with the net, or lace if you prefer, before someone looks in on you. You have been warned."

Simon Baynham, the estate manager, said the reminder to tenants had been made to



The landowner, Lord Howard de Walden

preserve the character of the elegant Georgian properties, which were originally built as private residences.

"The curtains are required

to maintain the charm of the area and ensure that people do not look in and see things like word processors and other office equipment. The piece in the newsletter was rather lighthearted but it is not a joke. The requirement is there."

Lord Howard de Walden, 83, was away from his Avington Manor estate, near Hungerford, Berkshire, and unavailable for comment. The 9th Baron and former senior steward of the Jockey Club had a stroke just before Christmas and is recuperating in Ireland.

Net curtains, it seems, are increasingly regarded as essential to ensure privacy. A recent issue of *Vogue* reviewed seven different net styles and said: "Since nets are a necessary evil these days, they might as well be chic."

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Boarding schools say tables are unfair

By JOHN O'LEARY

BOARDING schools' examination results are being underestimated by more than 10 per cent in government league tables, putting millions in overseas earnings at risk, a survey claimed yesterday.

Foreign parents seeking a boarding education for their children studied the tables, head teachers said as the Boarding Schools Association conference started in Ambleside in the Lake District. But, they said, rankings based on the performance of 15-year-olds alone were misleading them over many schools' standards.

Independent schools have long complained that age-related tables put them at a disadvantage because they are flexible about the timing of public examinations. Boarding schools have many foreign students, who often enter a year behind their age group. Ministers added a column to performance tables in 1995 for results of the year group, but few state schools sent in the information.



Pupils aged seven at Winton primary in Islington, which was one of the few schools praised in the Ofsted study. At others teachers were accused of failing children

Shepherd orders teachers back to basics on reading

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHERD yesterday demanded a return to traditional teaching methods after a survey found that 20 per cent of seven year olds in three inner-London boroughs could not read.

The Education and Employment Secretary criticised the way many primary school staff had been trained to educate and announced plans for a league table of teacher training colleges.

Ofsted, the school inspection agency, has so far assessed seven of the 68 colleges and given one, at Lancaster University, the lowest possible grade for the way its students learn to teach English and maths.

Mrs Shepherd yesterday backed Ofsted's report on 45 schools in three London boroughs, which blamed weak teaching and leadership for poor reading.

Teaching unions accused her of overlooking other factors, including social disadvantage and the high number of children who spoke English as a second language. Inspectors acknowledged that many

of the pupils came from poor backgrounds, but said they were "doubly disadvantaged" by weak teaching.

"At the heart of the problem is a commitment to methods and approaches to the teaching of reading that were self-evidently not working when judged by the outcomes of pupils' progress and attainment," the report said. Children were left to "discover" reading or were taught ad hoc learning systematically the building blocks of language.

Mrs Shepherd said: "I have little doubt that similar problems exist in other parts of the country and I will do all in my power to put things right." She pledged to strengthen inspectors' powers to assess local education authorities and said they would be allowed to conduct their own tests on pupils as part of special subject assessments.

The boroughs surveyed, Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets, gave permission for Ofsted to use a standardised reading test. This showed that just a fifth of

seven year olds had attained the average reading standard for their age; a fifth failed to achieve a score. At the age of 11, two in five pupils were reading at or above average, but two out of five were two years or more behind.

The report said a quarter of schools "did not have books and other materials of sufficient quality and quantity to teach the national curriculum effectively." But Mrs Shepherd said: "We are not dealing here with a problem of resources. We are dealing with teacher skills and methods, leadership and organisation." Inspectors said many of the teachers had blamed inadequate preparation at training college.

Mrs Shepherd dismissed accusations of political bias against Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. Tower Hamlets council said the report had been rewritten to highlight the negative and called it a "betrayal".

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the profession would resist the plan to allow inspectors to conduct their own tests of pupils.

John Major told the Commons yesterday that he sympathised with parents in "Labour-controlled local authorities, whose record was shown up so sadly in the report by Ofsted".

The Prime Minister taunted Tony Blair for sending his son away from his home borough

of Islington to a grant-maintained school and Harriet Harman for sending her son to a selective school outside Southwark. "The only response the Labour Party has to this is to threaten to give more powers to those very same councils that their front bench won't entrust their own children to."

Doubt was cast on the effect that teaching methods can have on reading attainment by the National Foundation for Education Research, which provided the test used in Ofsted's inquiry. Greg Brooks, a senior research officer, said teaching quality and method made only about 10 per cent difference. He said national reading had been rising for the past five years.

Testing schools, page 17



Shepherd said it was not a problem of resources

Worst pupils came from white homes

By DAVID CHARTER

INSPECTORS were astounded to find some teachers had adopted a technique of listening to several children read different books aloud at the same time in the inner-city schools they assessed.

They reported that when teachers listened to children read one-to-one it was only of limited benefit, but listening to two or more seven-year-olds at once was impossible and little progress was made. Most classes observed held a daily session of quiet reading, but this was often "aimless".

The worst readers of English in the inspectors' own test were white pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and the best performance at both 7 and 11 was by black Africans.

Bangladeshi pupils, who made up nearly a fifth of the survey, could barely read at seven but were almost as fluent as white children by 11. English was the first language of only half the pupils tested.

A big weakness was failure

to teach effectively the building blocks of language using the phonics method. Phonics means children learn to read by decoding words using the sounds of their letters. Thus C A T (or kuh a tuh) spells cat, and nothing else. Opponents say the system is boring. At older ages, pupils were not being encouraged to evaluate or respond to their reading.

The inspectors said: "Phonics provides pupils with the knowledge to decode and build words, upon which success in early reading and writing depends, and gives pupils the confidence they need to tackle new texts. Moreover, because phonics is a set of culturally determined conventions it cannot be left to be 'discovered'."

Inspectors acknowledged the areas studied represented "some of the highest levels of disadvantage in the country". In one of the schools, English was the first language of just 2 per cent of pupils.

First inspect your sandwich filling



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A YEAR or two ago, I was intrigued by the behaviour of one of Britain's most eminent physiologists who, at a reception at the Royal Society, opened up sandwiches and inspected and sniffed the fillings before accepting them.

Catching my eye he told me that he had been prescribed monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MOI) a form of antidepressant drug, and had to make certain that the sandwich did not contain any of the list of forbidden foods.

Patients taking MOI antidepressants are not allowed cheese, Bovril, Oxo, or any other meat extracts, nor even spreads made from yeast. The drugs are also incompatible with pickled herrings, bean pods or bananas.

Patients taking those drugs should be careful when they eat in a cheap restaurant, for soya or another flavoured vegetable protein may have been added to the stew or mince to make it go further.

The physiologist may have seemed unmanly to smell his sandwich but it was an important precaution, for any food that is no longer fresh may precipitate a sudden severe rise in blood pressure, which can also be brought about by the long list of outlawed foods. Strokes have occurred when these precautions have not been taken.

The MOI antidepressants are not the only drugs that do not mix well with certain

foods. Milk and other dairy products combine several preparations, including some antibiotics, and thereby prevent the drugs' absorption.

Recently another curious mismatch has been noted. One of the major groups of calcium channel blocking drugs, which are frequently used in the treatment of high blood pressure, has been found to cause problems in patients who regularly take large quantities of grapefruit or grapefruit juice.

Grapefruit is much richer than other citrus fruits in health-giving flavonoids, the antioxidants that are thought to protect against heart disease and even malignancy.

The metabolism of the grapefruit flavonoids is dependent on the same enzyme which breaks down the calcium channel blocker.

Those who have taken grapefruit before they started on the calcium channel blocking drugs are not at any risk, for their doctor will have fixed their dose with their breakfast habits in mind.

If, however, patients suddenly start taking daily grapefruit juice after they have been having the anti-blood pressure drugs, the blood pressure may fall to a point where they collapse if they stand up too quickly.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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SATURDAY
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Lottery winner's life in the fast lane, with mum riding shotgun

By Bill Frost

WEALTH beyond the dreams of avarice would not corrupt or change him, Karl Crompton said yesterday as he clutched a cheque for almost £11 million, his share of the National Lottery jackpot.

However, the battered banger he drove until Saturday had already lost the parking place in his heart to a Porsche Carrera 911 and a champagne flute had been substituted for his pint beer glass. The 23-year-old bachelor from Blackpool wore the sort of smile that only the obscenely rich can afford.

Mr Crompton, an assistant manager at a Comet electrical goods store (until he picks up his final pay cheque later this week, thought he would have little difficulty adapting to a life of luxury.

by the tabloids, Mr Crompton acknowledged that his new bank balance would inevitably enhance his pulling power. "I don't have a girlfriend," he said. "There is one I would like to go out with but I don't think her boyfriend would be keen."

How would Mr Crompton cope with women after one thing — his money? His mother Patricia intervened immediately. "I'll fend them off," she said firmly. "Karl is a sensible lad really. The only thing that worries me is the motorcycle he intends to buy."

The offending item is a Ducati 916, an £18,000 165mph racer that won the world Superbike series last year. A dealer thoughtfully provided a limited-edition 916 Senna model for yesterday's photo-opportunity. Mr Crompton hopes to race motorcycles — "if mum lets me" — but market forces may be on his mother's side and prevent an impulse buy: Steve Dimasico, sales manager with

Motorcycle City in Farnborough, said: "We are sold out for the year. There are only 30 made a year and the waiting list can be long and it's impossible to jump it — even if you have loads of money."

The £94,000 180mph Porsche will prove equally elusive. It will be the end of the year before one is available.

Mrs Crompton, who intends to continue working as a chiropodist's receptionist, played a key part in the win by suggesting numbers as her son hurriedly completed his ticket on Saturday before embarking on a night's "clubbing". She wrote the winning numbers on the back of the *Radio Times*. "I thought mum and dad were having a joke. It wasn't until I checked Teletext that I realised I had hit the jackpot," Mr Crompton said.

Before leaving Blackpool yesterday morning, Mr Crompton called his boss. "He said 'I suppose I won't be



Karl Crompton, who won almost £11 million, plans to buy a Porsche and race motorcycles — "if mum lets me"

seeing you at 9am then?" I said 'Presumably not.' His immediate plans are for a holiday, possibly in Mauritius with "a mate". Then he will buy a house for himself and any other members of his family

who would like one. "Somewhere in Blackpool — all my friends are close by," he said. If he should ever toy with the idea of work as a diversion, Mr Crompton would buy a nightclub. He has no fears

that the money will be frittered. Six years ago he was awarded £20,000 compensation after breaking both wrists in an industrial accident. "I've hardly spent any of it," he said. The one suggestion of

possible profligacy came as Mr Crompton popped the cork on a bottle of champagne and sprayed photographers. Subsequent inquiries revealed, however, that the bubbly was on someone else's tab.

Singer forsakes fish for his flute

By Dalia Alberge, Arts Correspondent

IAN ANDERSON, the millionaire flautist and singer with the rock group Jethro Tull, is turning his back on fish-farming to devote himself entirely to the band.

He established a £14 million Scottish fish-farm business in 1982 with the proceeds of his distinctive folk-rock music, but yesterday said his heart had always been in music. Anderson, who once joked that the pleasures of going on stage came a close third to sex and curry, is stepping down as chairman of his Inverness-based Ian Anderson Group.

When Jethro Tull started in

1968, Anderson thought the band was last five years at most. He later said: "I take life on stage one bar at a time." His biggest hit, *Living in the Past*, made No 3 in 1969. He has said the band's success was down to its audiences.

Anderson, 48, was yesterday embarking with the band on a tour of Australia and New Zealand. Six weeks in Europe will follow. After a concert last October, a review in *The Times* said: "He can still play the flute, metal or wooden, in a way never copied, never bettered."

His business has been renamed the Strathaird Group after his former Skye estate. Its new chairman is Michael Lunn, former chairman of the White and Mackay Group, but Anderson will continue to hold a majority of shares. The company employs 200 people at Inverness, 100 at Buckie in Grampian and 45 on Skye.

Anderson, who grew up in Edinburgh and Blackpool, said: "It has always been my intention to continue my career in music. I am delighted at the way the business has grown. I appreciate that it has attained a size and is competing in markets where we need the type of international experience and presence that Michael Lunn can bring."



Anderson said his heart was in music

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Man admits abuse and murder of 'harmless' boy

By RICHARD DUCE

TWO men acted out their fantasies when they abducted and sexually assaulted a nine-year-old boy before strangling him, a jury was told yesterday.

They kidnapped Daniel Handley from a street close to his home in east London, then took video pictures as they each assaulted him. They then drove the boy along the M4 before killing him and burying him in woodland near Bristol. At one point they told Daniel they were not going to kill him.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said at the Old Bailey: "If that sounds like a description of callous inhumanity and depravity almost beyond belief, it is exactly what this case is all about — the deliberate abuse and murder of a nine-year-old boy purely for the purpose of fulfilling their lust."

"The evidence in this case is shocking. It is about as depressing an example of the dark side of human nature, of man's inhumanity to man, and downright wickedness as you could imagine."

Timothy Morris, 33, yesterday admitted murdering Dan-

iel, who lived in Beckton. His homosexual lover Brett Tyler, 30, denies the killing, although he admits taking part in the abduction and subsequent sexual assault on the boy.

Mr Bevan said Daniel, who he described as a "harmless, streetwise nine-year-old London kid", had asked the men after his ordeal: "Are you going to kill me?" They assured him they were not. Tyler had subsequently told police that Daniel then appeared to fall asleep in the back of their Peugeot estate car on the way to Bristol and was strangled with a length of rope.

Mr Bevan told the jury that both Tyler and Morris, who met in Wormwood Scrubs and became lovers, had a "perverted fantasy involving the abduction of a young boy, bugging him and then killing him". Both men showed "an abiding, perverted sexual interest in young boys" and travelled to the Philippines to indulge in under-age sex.

Mr Bevan said the two men approached Daniel on Sunday, October 2, 1994, as he played on his BMX bike close

to his home, where he lived with his mother, her boyfriend and two brothers. Crucial in the trial was the fact that Daniel was blond, Mr Bevan said. "If he had not been, presumably he would still be alive today."

Daniel had been pushed into the rear of the Peugeot and driven to a flat above a taxi firm's office in Camberwell, south London, owned by David Guttridge, 60, a lover of Morris.

While Tyler kept guard, Morris had gone to get a video camera which was used to record the two men assaulting the boy. Later, Daniel had been bundled into Morris's estate car. Somewhere along the M4, the car had pulled off and he had been throttled. His body had been buried in woodland at Bradley Stoke, near Bristol, where Guttridge owned a house.

The body was not discovered for six months, Mr Bevan said. Guttridge had then provided Morris with cash to flee to the Philippines, where he stayed with Tyler.

The two had fallen out,

returned separately to Britain and been arrested. Tyler had told police how the two men had abducted Daniel. He had described arguing with Tyler on the M4 over what to do with Daniel.

Mr Bevan said Tyler, of no fixed address, had originally told police: "Daniel looked up and asked, 'Are you going to kill me now?' I told him no and he seemed to go back to sleep. Then Tim tied a knot in a rope and put it round his neck and started pulling. I held one end. We strangled him until he was dead."

After Tyler had been charged with murder, he had changed details of the confession, insisting that it was Morris alone who had strangled the boy. He had told police that he and Morris had fantasised about abducting a child for months, adding: "It was just a fantasy."

Morris, from Leyton, east London, will be sentenced at the end of the trial. Guttridge will be sentenced later for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The trial continues today.



Daniel Handley, the nine-year-old who was abducted, assaulted and strangled

NEWS IN BRIEF

End of the line for rail thieves

Two men who cut up and sold lengths of unused railway track were each ordered by Rotherham magistrates to do 120 hours of community service. Railtrack noticed that half a mile of track had disappeared from the former Silverwood Colliery branch line. Police caught Christopher Rogan and Gary Smith red-handed, at work with an oxyacetylene cutter. They admitted a specimen charge of stealing 108 feet of line.

Surging costs

Midlands Electricity Board is to replace electrical goods worth up to £15,000 that were damaged or destroyed by a power surge at the weekend. A faulty cable increased voltage from 230 to 370 in the Yate area of Bristol.

Soldier killed

A British soldier on assignment with the US Marines has died of head injuries after he was struck by a car, Mark Boulton, 34, of Colchester, Essex, was crossing Highway 17 near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Oasis name dates

Oasis has announced three outdoor summer concerts. The group will play at Balloch Castle, by Loch Lomond, on Saturday August 3 and at Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, twice the following weekend.

Drink-drive bus

A minibus driver found with an empty vodka bottle and a half-finished bottle of whisky in his cab was three times over the drink-drive limit. Roger Card, 55, of Exmouth, Devon, admitted drink-driving. The case was adjourned.

Scaffolding death

A workman was killed and three others injured when they fell 100ft after scaffolding collapsed at the Exchange Plaza office development in Edinburgh. The dead man was named as Thomas Dolan, 48, of Airdrie.

All to play for

Stanford Arms FC, bottom of the the Lowestoft Sunday League with minus two points, have been confirmed by the Football Association as the worst of its 42,000 teams this year. They drew one, cancelled one and lost 16.

Hedgehog feast

A chicken-based food for hedgehogs could soon be on sale in supermarkets. Spike's Dinner is now available in pet shops at 42p a can and Perky Petfoods of Lincoln says several supermarket chains are interested.

Fans jam Euro 96 tickets hotline

By JOHN GOODBODY

TICKET sales for the Euro 96 football championship in June were left in chaos yesterday after so many fans called a hotline to book seats at Wembley that the specially installed switchboard crashed.

Hundreds of thousands of supporters, eager to snap up a new allocation of 5,000 tickets at the national stadium, received a dead-line signal instead of the engaged tone.

Alec McGiven, the Euro 96 spokesman, said: "There was no fault on the line but there were so many calls that the system switched over from the engaged to the dead-line tone. We understand how frustrating and confusing this must have been to punters and we want to apologise to them."

Organisers of Euro 96 advertised the ticket hotline, 099 099 1996, which opened in Stoke-on-Trent at 9am yesterday. Fifty operators manned a BT system geared to coping with a huge number of calls.

However, BT said 19,500 calls were received at 9am, jamming the system, and then people kept redialling. Although the hotline was kept open until 8pm, many callers were still getting a dead-line signal in the late afternoon.

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MPs support ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces was backed by a Commons committee yesterday after a comprehensive review by MPs. The MPs accepted that the presence of openly homosexual servicemen and women would have a "significant adverse impact on morale and, ultimately, on operational effectiveness".

The MPs on the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill, which meets every five years to review legislation covering the three services, acknowledged that they had been impressed by those who argued that the ban was an infringement of human rights.

However, in its report, published yesterday, the committee said: "There has to be a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the whole. In an organisation in which strict discipline and good morale are essential, it has long been accepted that members have to live with certain restrictions that do not apply in civilian life."

Support for the ban on homosexuals from the committee, which consisted of six Conservative MPs and five Labour MPs, including John Reid, a Labour defence spokesman, will add weight to the Government's case if it has to defend its policy before the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

The committee studied the policies of other countries, but remained unconvinced there was a need for change. The report said: "There is no easy compromise available. None of the various options that have been put forward can satisfy everyone." The MPs rejected the American policy of "don't ask, don't tell" as impractical, and also dismissed the German approach under which homosexuals are allowed to serve but only in certain roles.

Since the last committee reported five years ago, 30 officers and 331 other ranks had been discharged or dismissed on grounds of homosexuality, the report said.

Four of those dismissed are still pursuing legal action against the Government and plan to take their case to Strasbourg if they fail in the House of Lords.

The MPs were persuaded by the arguments of servicemen and women who took part in a recent Ministry of Defence survey of opinion and opposed lifting the ban.

However, the MPs expressed concern that individuals in the services who wished to talk about their homosexuality should have someone to go to without fear of being exposed.

While taking evidence the MPs heard allegations that, in some cases, chaplains had passed on confidential information about a person's sexuality to commanding officers, leading to investigations and the person being discharged. The committee said: "We recommend that the MoD and those responsible for the chaplaincies ensure that all discussions between chaplains and personnel remain strictly confidential."

Angela Mason, executive director of Stonewall, which campaigns for gay rights, said yesterday: "The select committee has yet again pandered to prejudice."

□ *Special Report from the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill, HMSO, £22.*

How Navy copes with mixed crews

By MICHAEL EVANS

ROYAL NAVY warships with mixed crews must follow a code of conduct between the sexes, including no touching or leering or pictures of a "sexual nature" that might offend.

Details of the "Green Guide", as well as general orders given to Navy commanding officers about women at sea, are published for the first time in yesterday's report by the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill.

Under the rules for mixed crews, members of the opposite sex may enter each other's messdecks between 8am and 10pm (sleep time) only with permission and provided the quarters guarantee adequate privacy for those trying to sleep or change.

Intimate touching or other behaviour between the sexes "is not permitted in ships at any time".

The Green Guide covers

disciplinary offences, including cases of alleged sexual harassment, stating: "Behaviour which could be construed as harassment includes unsolicited acts ranging from leers, gestures or comments of a sexual nature, to subtle or explicit demands for or offers of sexual favours. The display of material of a sexual nature in a place where it can be offensive to the opposite sex can also constitute sexual harassment."

The guide also gives warning that any relationship between the sexes of any rank or rating which gives the impression of partiality or compromises the chain of command is forbidden.

The general orders for all commanding officers acknowledge that "ashore, there is little that can be done to stop intimacy in private between consenting adults, although the consequences are often greater than the participants realise. Experience suggests that affairs can rarely be kept secret".



Thixendale in the Yorkshire Wolds has never had a proper television picture. Residents have to rely on video recordings from friends

Village plans warm reception for TV

By PAUL WILKINSON

PEOPLE in the remote farming hamlet of Thixendale live in a time warp. Not for them the rush home to catch the latest episode of *Coronation Street*, or afterwards spent glued to Channel Four Racing.

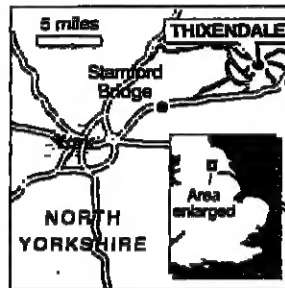
The village is one of the few mainland communities where watching prime-time television is something other people do. Despite all the advances in the science of transmission since John Logie Baird gave his first demonstration in 1926, watching television in the tiny community, tucked in a fold of the Yorkshire Wolds, is akin to watching through a snowstorm.

Geographical conditions mean that the signal for all

four terrestrial channels passes way over the villagers' heads. Satellite TV is accessible, but as yet few of Thixendale's 120 residents have signed up for it. Instead they rely on recordings sent by friends in areas with better reception or a ten-mile drive along country lanes to either Malton or Driffield to rent videos.

Tony Fisher, a newcomer to the village, said: "I could not believe it when I moved here 13 months ago and they said we could not pick up television. Now I have got quite used to it."

Instead, the community enjoys more traditional leisure pursuits, such as pub darts and barn dances. Mr Fisher, 30, who works for the Ministry of Agriculture, said: "My



dominoes are coming along a treat." Lynne Boyce, who runs the village store, said: "I have never really watched TV, but then we have never really had a picture you can see properly. It drives my husband mad. He loves his sport, but he cannot tell what is going on. I don't even think he knows TVs have colour pictures now."

People have become so fed up with the situation that they have launched a campaign to raise £10,000 for a hilltop communal aerial to feed a cable network in the village.

The fortnight-long fundraising festival is called "Life Without TV" and will feature the very events — puppet shows, drama, music and crafts — which TV has killed off in many communities.

Andrian Ingleby, the organiser, said: "Living in rural isolation means there are no convenient cinemas, discos or clubs and we have to provide our own entertainment."

Mary Anstey, who runs the Cross Keys pub, was a little apprehensive. "I hope it does not affect my takings. There is a wonderful community

spirit here and I won't spoil the darts and darts by installing a TV in the bar when it arrives."

A spokesman for National Transcommunications Ltd, which shares transmitter ownership with the BBC, said: "About 99.4 per cent of the population can receive TV pictures, but there are still some communities where high ground or tall buildings block the signal and a special aerial has to be installed."

Yesterday the village called a press conference to attract publicity for its campaign. Cameras for the local television news programmes were there in force, but unfortunately no one in Thixendale was able to watch it.

TV Listings, page 47

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هكذا من الأصل

Roy Hattersley the £110,000 journalist is head and shoulders above his Labour colleagues

Tories dominate list of Commons biggest earners

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
ANDREW PIERCE
AND JAMES LANDALE

THE REGISTER

THE first Commons register detailing MPs' outside earnings has unearthed a previously undeclared treasure chest of consultancy contracts worth well over £2 million a year.

Tory MPs far outweigh their Labour counterparts in the scale of their earnings, declaring contracts worth up to £2 million. Although Labour MPs reveal payments of only £600,000, the register gives a first insight into the scale of trade union funding for office and staff expenses, which can amount to £30,000 a year in some cases.

Under new rules introduced last year, MPs now have to divulge details of earnings from outside work gained as a result of being an MP. Having resisted pressure to register the precise sum, they have to declare their incomes in £5,000 bands.

Earnings from directorships and many other business interests — such as working as a solicitor or accountant — do not have to be declared, nor does pay for work begun before an MP entered the Commons.

The former Labour deputy leader Roy Hattersley

(Birmingham Sparkbrook) is top of the list, disclosing earnings of up to £80,000 for his work for *The Mail on Sunday* and up to £30,000 for his work for *The Guardian*.

Behind him the top earners come entirely from the Tory backbenchers. Patrick Nicholls (Teignbridge) declares up to £76,000 from consultancies and advisory work. He declares earnings of up to £15,000 each from Hill & Smith Holdings, Channel Express Ltd, British Bus and the Clinical Dental Technicians' Association. He also collects up to £10,000 from the National Specialist Contractors' Council as a consultant, and up to £5,000 as an adviser to the London Tailors Wells. His earnings for the polling firm Harris are declared at between £1 and £1,000.

Mr Nicholls provoked anger last year by demanding that MPs' pay should be raised to £126,000.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington) declares an outside income of up to £55,000, including two consultancy contracts each worth up to £15,000 with Gillette Management and Fauding Pharmaceuticals. He also reveals contracts worth up to

£10,000 with Pielle Corporate Communications, a consultancy to industry, and consultancies of up to £5,000 from the Cosmetic, Toiletary and Perfumery Association, Celltech, and Whitehall Laboratories.

Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke) declares up to £50,000 of outside work including a £15,000 consultancy contract to the Timeshare Council and to Political Planning Services, a property industry public relations firm. He also reveals contracts of up to £10,000 to the engineering firm Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and the pharmaceutical company Lilly Pharmaceuticals.

Keith Hampson (Leeds North West) lists a string of consultancies bringing him up to £46,000. He reveals a £15,000 contract with PowerGen, £10,000 contracts with NCM credit insurance, and the insurance management company Alexander and Alexander. He also has work earning up to £5,000 from the Association of University Teachers and a training company, CAPITE.

Quentin Davies (Stamford and Spalding) is a merchant banker. His consultancies earn him up to £42,000. He is paid £20,000-£25,000 by NatWest Securities. Mr Davies, a member of the Treasury Select Committee, is also the parliamentary consultant to the Chartered Institute of Taxation.

Jack Aspinwall (Warrington), whose heart attack last year prompted fears of another by-election, earned up to £42,000. He is the parliamentary and public affairs consultant to Rentokil, for a fee of up to £10,000, British Airways Authority (£20,000) and British Gas (up to

£10,000). He also earns up to £2,000 from market research panels.

Spencer Batiste (Elmet) has a wide portfolio of outside interests but lists only his fees from consultancies. Mr Batiste cites under remunerated employment his profession as solicitor and law clerk assaying precious metals and the directorship of a Sheffield laboratory company. The payments he specifies

are £5,000 as consultant to the Music Industries Association, up to £15,000 from Magellan Medical Communications, consultants on health issues, and £15,000 from Energic Communications, a telecommunications company. He is also a member of the market research panels.

Ian Bruce (South Dorset) runs his own recruitment, management and parliamentary consultancy. He is parlia-

mentary adviser to the Telecommunications Managers' Association, for up to £15,000, adviser to a firm of personal injury employment advisers, for £10,000, and he is paid up to £15,000 from the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services.

Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire), who is standing down at the election, lists consultancies and directorships of up to £40,000. They

include an adviser's role with Barclays Bank for between £5,000 and £10,000. John Greenway (Ryedale) an insurance broker, is also in the £40,000 bracket. He is paid up to £15,000 by the Institute of Insurance Brokers. His consultancies with Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television and a healthcare company provide up to £25,000.

Leading article, page 19

The top four earners, from left: the Labour Party's Roy Hattersley and the Tory MPs Patrick Nicholls, Sir Dudley Smith and Andrew Hunter. Mr Hattersley's lucrative work for the Mail on Sunday and The Guardian brings his declared earnings to the top of the list

HATTERSLEY, Rt. Hon. Roy (Birmingham, Sparkbrook)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Writing, broadcasting and occasional lecturing.

HATTERSLEY, Rt. Hon. Roy (Birmingham, Sparkbrook)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Journalism for *The Guardian* (£25,001-£30,000)
Journalism for *The Mail on Sunday* (£75,001-£80,000)
TV critic for *The Express*.
Occasional broadcasting and lecturing.

Before and after: The new register, right, details the outside earnings of MPs in bands of £5,000 whereas the old one provided no figures at all

Trade union figures 'not clear'

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

FRESH details of how much Labour MPs receive from trade unions and outside consultancies were disclosed in the Register of Members' Interest yesterday.

Although most union cash goes direct to Labour constituencies as sponsorship and does not have to be declared, Opposition MPs have been forced to say how much the unions give them directly.

As Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney receives £5,000 from the Fire Brigade Union, £10,000 from the Communication Workers' Union and £12,500 from Unison for his office.

However, Labour MPs were attacked

by the Tories for failing to declare how much they received from the unions to pay for their election expenses. Many Opposition MPs, including Tony Blair and John Prescott, said simply that a union or other interest group paid "more than 25 per cent" of their election expenses in 1992 — without giving a precise figure.

Election expenses for individual MPs are difficult to calculate because the limits vary in each constituency. Voters wanting to discover how much their Labour MP was given by the unions would have to do the calculations themselves.

"This leaves us none the wiser about the

money that changes hands between the unions and the Labour Party," a senior Tory source said. "It is meaningless to talk about 25 per cent. Tory MPs have come out and followed the new rules — why don't Labour do the same?"

Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, is the Labour frontbencher receiving the most from consultancies. He receives up to a total of £30,000 as an adviser to Albright and Wilson (UK) Ltd, Hays Chemicals, and Centurion Press Ltd. Doug Henderson, a home affairs spokesman, gains up to £10,000 as a consultant to the Machine Tools Technologies Association and up to £20,000 in research support from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd.

Hundreds receive cash for questions

RESEARCH FEES

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the easiest ways MPs earn extra money is by filling in questionnaires for market researchers.

The register this year reveals for the first time that at least 280 MPs, of all parties, are members of Harris Parliamentary Panel and the Business Planning and Research International. Last year the organisations barely featured in the register.

All the MPs cite the same annual fee range of £1 to £1,000. Neither Harris nor BPRI, despite the new era of openness about MPs pay in relation to their parliamentary work, would confirm the exact sums involved. But they both confirmed that none of them had been paid the £1 at the lower end of the scale.

Michael Morris, the Deputy Speaker, Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse and Dame Janet Fookes, other deputy speakers, all receive income from various parliamentary panels.

Membership of the organisations does not require much of the MPs' time. They are sent questionnaires, up to eight times a year, with up to 30 questions. The answers are sent to clients of the market research companies who range from blue-chip companies to local authorities.

A spokesman for BPRI said: "It's not a lot of work and they don't get paid much. It is not as much as £1,000. Any MP who is not a minister can become a member of the panel. Harris pay more than us."

David Towling, a spokesman for Harris, said: "We are not at liberty to reveal the figure. It is commercially confidential. It is true that none were paid £1."

IN PARLIAMENT

Yesterday in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister; Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill, second reading; backbench debate on hospital and dental services in Southampton and southwest Hampshire. In the Lords: Deregulation Bill, third reading; London Regional Transport Bill, second reading; Trade of Land and Appointment of Trustees Bill, third reading.

Today in the Commons: backbench debates; Foreign Office questions; Labour debate on the prospects for water supplies this summer, and on the fire business; effects of the privatisation of the (Fouling of Land) Bill, second reading.

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Mellor and Heath top list of non-disclosers

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MPs who have refused to disclose their earnings are among the most senior at Westminster. They include Sir Edward Heath and David Mellor, who have some of the most lucrative consultancies. Kenneth Baker, the former party chairman, has also failed to conform with the new spirit of openness heralded by the Nolan report.

Mr Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, lists ten consultancies, which earn him a reputed £300,000. He states in his entry that he is an adviser to a number of companies involved in exports, primarily to the Middle East, such as Short Brothers, British Aerospace and Vosper Thornycroft. "In relation to all the other companies, I am engaged in business development unrelated to my position as an MP," he wrote. Mr

EX-MINISTERS

Mellor advises two Middle East media organisations. He does not list his salary as host of a BBC 5 Live football talk show on Saturday evenings. Critics pointed out that Roy Hattersley, by contrast, listed his payments as a national newspaper columnist.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, who has seven directorships, does not disclose his earnings from three consultancies or his media fees. John Patten, the former Education Secretary, has not disclosed his income from two consultancies.

Sir Edward Heath made clear when the new rules were established that he had no intention of declaring any income he derived as a result of being a former Prime Minister. He lists the chairmanship of Dumps Gap Company, which he set up in 1976 as a channel for his activities.



Mellor: names ten consultancies

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 8 1996
Labour in cut spend welfare

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THE TIMES SUMMER BOOKS TOKEN

Labour intends to cut spending on welfare benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has declared an ambition to spend less than the Tories on welfare by ensuring that claimants move off benefit and into work.

In what will be seen as another reversal in traditional Labour strategy, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday that it was "absurd" to regard extra spending on welfare as a success.

Labour fought the last general election promising big hikes in spending on state pensions and child benefit funded by tax increases. But Mr Smith made clear that these expectations were in the next manifesto would be disappointed. "To regard the amount we spend as the badge of virtue is absurd," he said.

In the next few weeks Mr Smith is expected to announce new policies on welfare, concentrating on single mothers and young people, state pensions and child support. Yesterday he declined to give any details and skirted round Gordon Brown's controversial policy to scrap child benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds, which is still under negotiation.

However, in a speech on Labour's social security reforms, Mr Smith said: "I despair of those who argue that it is somehow a cause of the Left in politics to spend more on social security and social support. It isn't a mark of progressive success if you are spending more and more on a benefit system. If that were the case, then Peter Lilley would be earning full marks in the pantheon of socialist heroes."

"It is a mark of success if you can help people to move off benefit and into work. It is progress if we can end up, as a result, spending less on social security."

Mr Smith argued that under the Tories the social security budget had grown by a third to £90 billion. He criticised Mr Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, saying that his "salami-slicing" approach to reducing benefit spending

had resulted every year in overspending at the Social Security Department.

"They have ended up with a real double whammy for the people of Britain: a social security system that grows more brutal year by year, increasingly degrading for those dependent on it; and a system that has simultaneously become far more expensive for the taxpayers of the country as a whole."

But in a move that will please leftwingers, Mr Smith also promised that a Labour government would try to find a clear, measurable definition of poverty. "I grieve at the way in which poverty has tended to be written out of the Government's political script in recent years. We have to write it back in again."

He said that under the Tories the poorest tenth of the population had seen its real income fall by 17 per cent while that of the richest tenth had risen by 61 per cent.

Mr Smith, a key moderniser in the Shadow Cabinet, made



clear that Labour would expect the private sector to contribute in some areas of welfare support. He suggested there would be an overhaul of the state pension system, with the private sector working alongside the public sector.

It is understood that he has dropped the idea of a minimum guaranteed pension for poorer pensioners, but that he favours a second pension based on compulsory contributions that could be topped up.

He said: "Surely it is time to

get away from the sterile battle lines of public and private and instead to look at how the two can best work together in the interests of the citizen — and in the interests of all citizens, at that."

He also hinted at changes to the housing benefit system as part of a drive to reduce means testing, which often deterred people from seeking work. One option is to reduce the level at which housing benefit is deducted from claimants as soon as they start work, from 65 per cent to 50 per cent.

Smith must follow in Brown's cautious tracks

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown believe that the key test for any Labour government will be how far it modernises the welfare state. That is why the current dispute over child benefit matters and why Mr Brown's view should, and almost certainly will, prevail.

Welfare reform is one of the trickiest issues for any party. Even slowing the growth of social security spending is very hard, as Peter Lilley can readily testify. Labour is torn between its longstanding concern with poverty and equality, and its acceptance of the need to break welfare dependency and to control social spending. Any change is likely to involve cuts in entitlements and therefore to be resisted by interest groups within the party.

Chris Smith's statement of Labour's principles yesterday was a careful balancing act, long on good intentions but short on specific proposals which are promised for the next few weeks. Mr Smith offers a persuasive analysis of why social security spending has risen so sharply: higher unemployment and the many disincentives against moving into work, plus the shift of housing subsidies from property to people. Mr Smith

MODEL POLITICS

condemns the Tories' salami-slicing tactics of "attacking one group in society after another, reducing one benefit after another". Many of the claimed savings are, he says, elusive since they shift spending from one benefit to another.

Instead, Mr Smith argues that "a sensible government would be seeking to attack the root causes of rising expenditure" by helping as many people as possible to come off benefits altogether by getting back into work. A shift to a more active role for welfare spending — a benefit-to-work strategy — from the past, largely passive structure is desirable, as Frank Field discusses on page 18. Indeed, the Government has started to move in that direction, though with more stick than carrot than Labour favours.

Overall, Mr Smith argues that "it isn't a mark of progressive success if you are spending more and more on a benefit system. It is a mark of success if you can help people to move off benefit and into work. It is progress if we can end up as a result spending less on social security." That sounds fine in theory, but Labour needs to be much

more specific, not least about tackling fraud.

Labour's case would be more convincing if it had not opposed almost all the Tories' measures to curb social security spending and presented itself as the defender of existing social entitlements. That is why Mr Brown's proposal to end child benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds is so symbolically important. He suggests using the £700 million savings for a new system of grants to help children of poorer parents remain in education. There are differing views on its merits, although some of the Labour criticisms are motivated by dislike of Mr Brown's style and the way the plan was oversold by his office before decisions have been taken.

But Mr Brown is right on the substance: "tough choices" cannot be avoided. If Labour's welfare plans are to be credible the party has to identify specific savings. Some current beneficiaries have to lose. There is no painless way to increase spending on favoured projects: either other programmes have to be cut or taxes will have to rise. Mr Smith needs to be equally hard-edged in his later, more specific proposals.

PETER RIDDELL

Insurance plans will help elderly to protect assets

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THREE new ways for people to protect their homes from being sold to pay for care in their old age were suggested by the Government yesterday.

All involve individuals buying financial packages to cover nursing or residential home fees, which can cost £20,000 a year. In return, the Government will allow people to keep more of their assets to be passed to their children.

It could cost £18,500 to protect an £80,000 house. With only one in five needing care, people can still choose not to make special provision for their old age and take the risk of losing their assets.

The consultation paper, *A New Partnership for Care in Old Age*, offers alternatives to the present means test which requires those who can afford it to pay for their care. People with only £10,000 in assets now have to make a contribution and those with £16,000 must pay in full, usually between £12,000 and £21,500.

Only when their savings and capital have been whittled down to the limit will the State pay the costs. The retired will be encouraged to buy indemnity insurance. The Government could provide an incentive by disregarding £150 of capital for every £1 of insurance cover bought. To protect a house worth £60,000 and savings of £10,000, a policy with a monthly premium of £50 would be required.

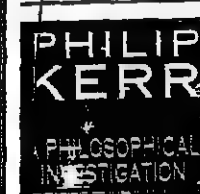
People already in care or about to need it, including the seriously disabled and those with dementia, will be urged to buy an annuity, paying a fixed sum for the rest of their expected life span. They too could be rewarded by being allowed to keep more capital.

This second scheme would be expensive: an 80-year-old woman protecting a £65,000 house and £20,000 savings would pay £18,500 for her annuity. The third option is to encourage younger workers to buy flexible pensions, offering lower sums immediately after retirement and more later when people need extra care.

The Government accepts its ideas would cost the taxpayer more. It warns people planning to offload their assets before going into care that it is studying ways to detect evasion of care charges.

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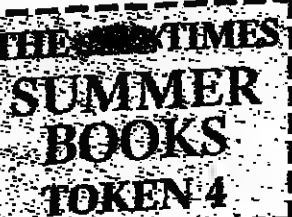
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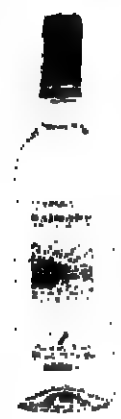
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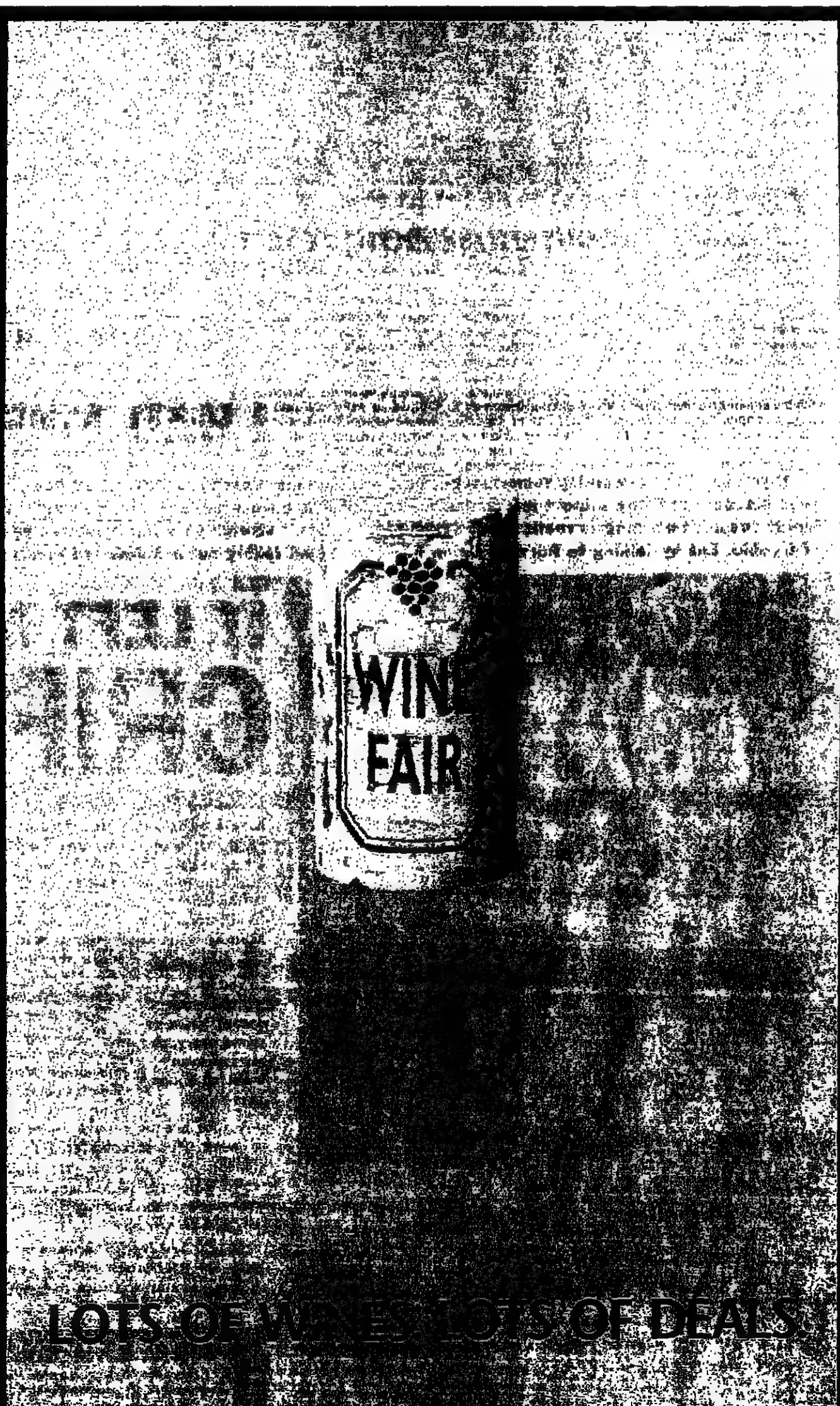
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Lightening the load



Pioneer Packard leaves \$7bn of computer fortune to charity

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A RECLUSIVE, penny-conscious computer pioneer who died in March left more than \$7 billion to charity, creating America's richest private foundation.

David Packard, a shy electronics engineer who co-founded the Hewlett-Packard company in a garage in 1938, died at the age of 83. Having earlier provided amply for his four children, he left 46 million Hewlett-Packard shares in his will to a charity he started with his late wife. The shares, along with others given by Packard, are worth \$7.2 billion (£4.8 billion), and rising.

The bequest catapults the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to the top of the charity league, alongside the Ford and Kellogg Foundations and the J. Paul Getty Trust. It marks the modest Packard as perhaps the greatest philanthropist of all time, and will ensure that a man who hated boasting will become more celebrated in death than he was in the course of his industrious, low-profile life.

Such is the size of the Packard donation that the foundation has no idea how to spend its riches.

Months of talks will be held to consider the directions in which the foundation's munificence should extend. The charity will be supervised by Packard's four children, Nancy, Julie, David and Susan, who themselves own enough Hewlett-Packard stock to see them through their lives in comfort.

The children suddenly find themselves in a lottery-board-style position of dispensing huge sums of money. Their own interests range from the

theatre to marine biology, but the charity's likely areas of work will be concerned with global population, environmental protection and science education.

Packard once declared that "you shouldn't gloat about anything you've done; you ought to keep going and try to find something better to do." When his company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1961, he and his partner, William Hewlett, travelled down to Wall Street, at Packard's insistence, on the Subway.

They lost their way and arrived late to witness their

big day at the exchange — but at least they saved the cost of a taxi.

The Palo Alto garage in which the two men started their electronics company with \$538 became known as the birthplace of California's Silicon Valley, now home to the many computer companies.

Hewlett-Packard became the second biggest computer company after IBM, with 1995 revenues of \$31 billion. At the behest of its co-founders it made large charitable contributions to its neighbour, Stanford University.

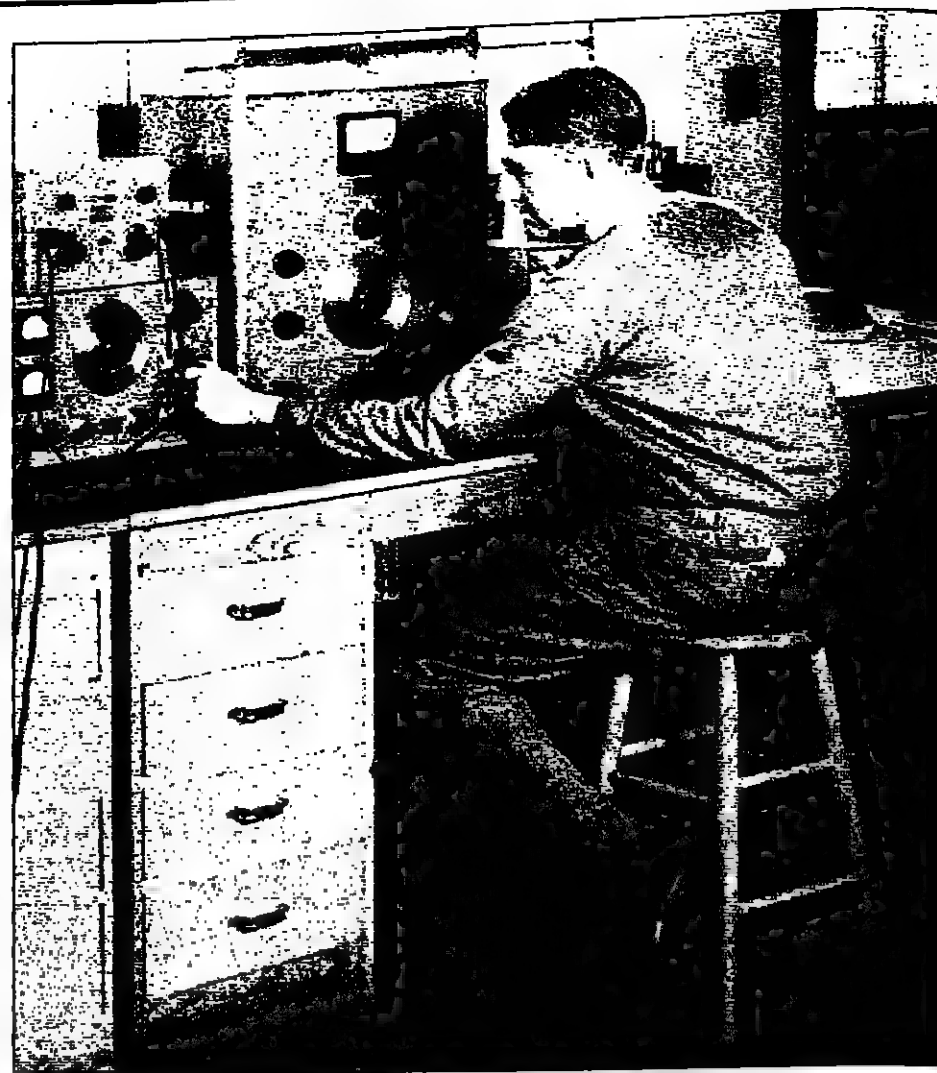
Packard helped the careers

of senior executives at Apple and Microsoft, among other leading computer companies, and charitable organisations will hope that his largesse sets an example to Silicon Valley's countless millionaires.

Some other foundations have seen battles between family members, but the Packard children follow their father's non-flamboyant habits. Julie Packard said that over-population would be a focus for the newly-rich foundation.

The Packard millions are unusually plentiful. An increasing number of rich men's children will probably be in a similar position in the next 15 to 20 years as the American technology boom's successful pioneers die and seek, in their wills, to perpetuate their names for posterity.

Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy, said last night: "As the baby boom generation ages, there will be an incredible inter-generational transfer of wealth. We hope to see more donations like this."



David Packard tests an electronic device in a garage in California at start of business

TOP TEN CHARITY FOUNDATIONS			
America	£m	Britain	£m
D & L Packard Foundation	4,800	Wellcome Trust	6,983
The Ford Foundation	4,400	Church Commissioners for England	2,381
W K Kellogg Foundation	4,020	Weston (Garfield) Foundation	1,314
J Paul Getty Trust	4,000	Leverhulme Trust	524
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	2,530	Gatsby Charitable Foundation	489
The Pew Charitable Trusts	2,200	Wolfson Foundation	473
Lilly Endowment Inc.	2,070	British Museum	412
J D & C T MacArthur Foundation	1,530	Smith's (Henry) (Kensington Estate)	401
The Rockefeller Foundation	1,570	National Trust	396
Andrew W Mellon Foundation	1,460	Bridge House Estates	382

Clinton stubs out liberal image for role of moraliser

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton travelled to a New Jersey high school yesterday to mark "Kick Butts Day" with a speech discouraging teenage smoking.

The President did not let his own weakness for an occasional cigar inhibit him. Yesterday's made-for-television appearance was part of a highly disciplined election-year drive to present himself as the champion of conservative "family values".

Scorched by the failures of his first two years in office, Mr Clinton has abandoned his role as America's top policy expert for that of national preacher, and he plays it like a master.

Mr Clinton never now talks about homosexuals in the military or the need for greater racial and sexual diversity in government. He has urged a return to school uniforms to encourage discipline, and announced moves denying welfare benefits to teenage mothers who leave school or refuse to live at home.

To discourage abortion and "strengthen American families" he has backed a \$5,000 (£3,300) annual tax break for parents of adopted children. He has unveiled a new, but largely cosmetic, drugs strategy and appointed a Pentagon general as the White House "drugs czar".

Once dazzled by Hollywood, he now deplores its output of sex and violence and has persuaded studio executives to support "V-chips" in television so that parents can block programmes unsuitable for children. New proposals have been put forward to limit welfare and "affirmative action" programmes designed to help minorities. Mr Clinton's



Clinton: partial to an occasional good cigar

1992 campaign slogan was: "It's the economy, stupid". This year's seems to be "It's values, stupid", and it is driven by his advisers' belief that the United States remains in a deeply conservative mood despite the unpopularity of the "Republican revolution".

The strategy is driving the Republicans to distraction. Mr Clinton is not only stealing their trump cards but defying their best efforts to label him a liberal.

"Talk Right, run Left. That's Bill Clinton's record," Mr Dole complained last weekend. The President "talked conservatively while walking knee-deep in the swamps of liberalism. He will look you in the eye and tell you exactly what you want to hear."

□ Petrol plea: Mr Dole, was asking the Senate last night to repeal Mr Clinton's 1993 petrol tax increase of 4.3 cents a gallon to offset rising oil prices. The Senate was expected to agree. The Republicans have been put forward to limit welfare and "affirmative action" programmes designed to help minorities. Mr Clinton's

I HAD A HEART ATTACK.

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IT IS STILL DOWN TO YOU TO MAINTAIN YOUR OWN STANDARD OF LIVING, AND YOUR FAMILY'S EVEN IF YOU NO LONGER HAVE A JOB. you're the breadwinner, that's a very frightening thought. Don't necessarily think your employers would look after you either. Many of them stop paying your wages even if you're not fit enough to return to work. You're considered to be someone else's problem. You might receive support from the State, but the basic single person incapacity benefit is only £52.50 a week.

Add up how much you spend every week on necessities such as food, clothes, gas and electricity, and you'll

find it's nowhere near enough. The truth is, it's still down to you to maintain your own standard of living, and your family's, even if you no longer have a job, and no real amount of money coming in. Not your employer or the State. You. And to be honest you're going to need some help.

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Fraud suit for Queen of Mean

BY QUENTIN LETTS

LEONA HELMSLEY, the mascara-laden Manhattan millionaire who was once jailed for tax evasion, faces fresh legal difficulties after being sued by her husband's two oldest business allies.

She is accused of siphoning off \$40 million (£27 million) of company money, of charging a \$1 million private jet to expenses and, generally, of behaving in a disagreeable, didactic, characteristic fashion. The "Queen of Mean", as Mrs Helmsley became known during the 1989 trial that led to her 21-month prison sentence, has a new nickname: "Lootin' Leona". She denies any wrongdoing.

The charges have been made by Alvin Schwartz, 84, and Irving Schneider, 76, who built America's most formidable commercial property company with Harry Helmsley.

Messrs Schwartz and Schneider had an option to buy the Helmsley-Spear company in the case of Mr Helmsley's death, and were assured lucrative positions for life. But that was before Harry started to lose his senses and his spouse sought to take control of the business.

Baywatch bimbo flops at box office

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE star of the *Baywatch* television series and walking advertisement for surgical implants, Pamela Anderson, has proved a box-office flop in her feature film debut.

Barb Wire, set in 1917 with a plot loosely based on *Casablanca*, took in a paltry \$1.2 million (£1.2 million) in its first weekend despite opening in nearly 1,500 cinemas after months of steamy publicity. After three days it ranked twelfth in the US charts.

As a lifeguard in *Baywatch*, she is among the world's most popular television stars, watched by about two billion people a week in 140 countries. But her failure to light up the big screen reflects the fact that *Baywatch* is less popular in America than abroad.

In the film, Anderson plays the eponymous Barb, a nightclub owner and bounty hunter in Steel Harbor, the last free city in an America torn by civil war. In a striptease scene, the attempts of the leather-cad and stiletto-heeled star to tantalise won less than unanimous acclaim.

Alan Coren, page 18

Clamour to preserve Afrikaner schools boosts support for all-white state

FROM R. W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S deadlocked constitutional negotiations over the future of Afrikaans-only schools has sparked a crisis among the once-dominant Afrikaners.

According to a recent poll, a clear majority of Afrikaners (and half the English-speaking whites) in the Pretoria region favour the establishment of a separate "volksstaat", or homeland. Even among liberal Afrikaners, who customarily have ridiculed the notion of such a volksstaat, one can now hear earnest, troubled discussion about

whether it might be necessary. This change of mood is not a reaction against the loss of Afrikaner power, which has been accepted with a grace and even a deference to the new authorities that has surprised many. It has a little more to do with economics: unemployment among white people has risen from almost zero to 10 per cent, and there is no doubt.

Afrikaners, who still include a disproportionate number of poor whites, are the worst affected, as can be seen in the sad and ravaged faces of the white beggars who throng outside most shopping malls. Until recently, Afrikaners

believed that their sacrifices were buying the survival of their language and culture and thus their own survival as a distinctive group within South Africa.

That is what they thought F. W. de Klerk had brought them by his peaceful surrender of power, but increasingly one can hear the same bitter accusations of betrayal hurled at him as one can hear in Russia against Mikhail Gorbachev.

The heart of the matter was laid bare just before Easter when the representatives of 21 Afrikaner cultural organisations went in solemn delegation to President

Mandela to demand the retention of single-medium Afrikaans schools and universities.

After all, they pointed out, more South Africans have Afrikaans as their first language than any other tongues except Zulu and Xhosa. All they wanted, they said, was what has come to be regarded as a normal minority right around the world: that is, the same sort of treatment as is accorded to, say, French Canadians.

Mr Mandela, like the rest of the African National Congress, is caught between two stools on this issue. For the fact is that most formerly white schools and univer-

sities are Afrikaans-speaking and, because these institutions are far superior to their all-black equivalents, there is naturally enormous pressure for black entry to them, and such blacks prefer to speak languages other than Afrikaans.

So the Government talks of forcing such institutions to be bilingual, which Afrikaners see as a one-way street to the ultimate supremacy of English, as well as a degradation of standards as schools are overwhelmed by a huge inflow of young blacks.

Further, there are too many poor Afrikaners for the option of private schooling to be a viable option for

more than a fifth of them. The situation is complicated by an anti-Afrikaans bias among many black activists, who clearly want to attack "the language of apartheid". Hence the downgrading of Afrikaans to just 4 per cent of television air time, the pressure to get rid of the springbok as the national sporting emblem, the attempt to do away with Afrikaans in the army and the insistence of student activists at Stellenbosch University that Afrikaans must go because otherwise the university will always be controlled by Afrikaners. Not surprisingly, Afrikaners feel besieged. Although few

say so openly, their indignation is fuelled by the feeling that the one positive thing about apartheid was that it sought to respect and preserve the different African languages and cultures in the various black "homelands".

Mr de Klerk's National Party faces a dilemma: it wants, at almost any cost, to avoid the bruising, divisive and probably losing referendum that would follow failure to agree on a new constitution. But if Mr de Klerk fails to protect Afrikaans schools, he and his party will be rejected by a huge and wrathful majority of their folk.

German protesters wage battle to halt nuclear waste train

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THOUSANDS of German protesters yesterday launched a form of guerrilla warfare against a closely guarded freight train carrying tonnes of nuclear waste from France to its burial site in north Germany.

Railway lines are being sabotaged, signals blocked and explosives strapped to tracks to slow down the progress of the train which, flanked by riot police, is crawling across the country.

With the help of decoy tactics, the 28 containers — carrying about 35 tonnes of spent fuel — managed to evade French Greenpeace protesters who had ringed La Hague reprocessing plant in northwestern France on Monday.

The train is the first of up to 110 planned shipments of nuclear waste and fuel back to German reactors from the French reprocessing plant over the next eight years. It looks certain to be a difficult, even violent passage.

Since April 18 the police have reported over 90 separate incidents in the region of Dannenberg around Gorleben. Bomb and arson threats have been flooding in and are taken seriously by the police. Fifteen thousand police and frontier guards are on the alert along the entire railway line which stretches from Berg in the Rhineland-Palatinate

through the state of Hesse to Gorleben.

Over the past few days, the Berlin-Hanover track has been blocked because of a bomb threat, and four explosive charges were found strapped to a track in Eastern Germany. A signal box has been set ablaze.

Early encounters yesterday were peaceful. A large picket of women blocked the entrance to a police barracks,



while schoolchildren lay in the road in front of a riot police headquarters.

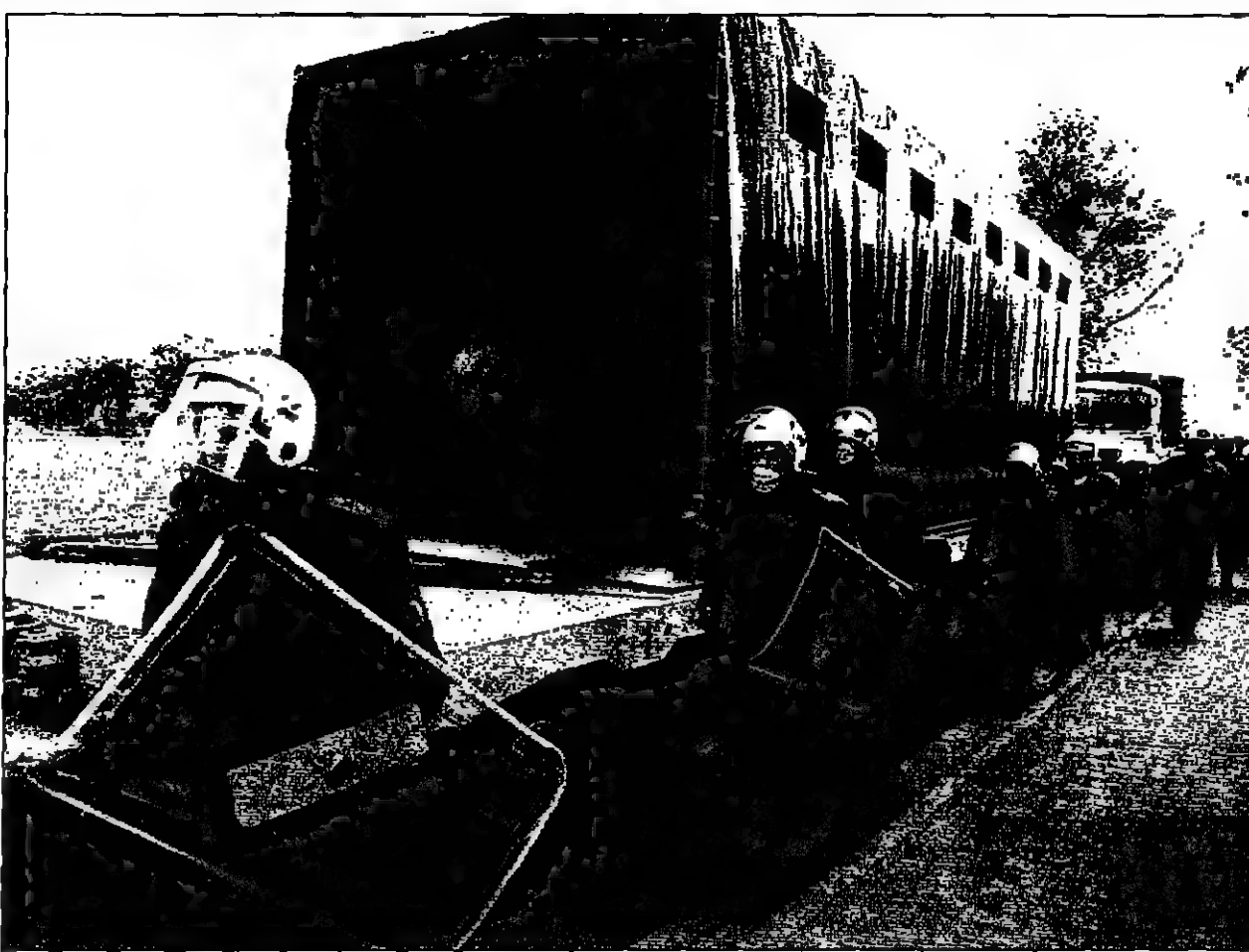
But with a demonstration ban announced yesterday by the local authorities in Dannenberg, it seems that the confrontation will soon turn violent. The burial site was yesterday surrounded by barbed wire and cordons of heavily armed police who searched anyone entering the immediate area. Mounted police units and water cannons have been moved to the wooded, isolated village. The

protests seem set to spread beyond the hard core of environmental activists. In Dannenberg, doctors, dentists, farmers and shopkeepers have announced that they will be stopping work today to express their anger about the delivery of the spent rods. Farmers are planning to use their tractors to block the access road from the railway station to the burial site.

The Gorleben site was initially intended to be a reprocessing plant for Germany's nuclear industry. But Green protests forced a change of plan and German waste is now taken to Sellafield in Cumbria or La Hague for reprocessing and, in the French case, the spent but still highly radioactive waste is sent back to Germany for deep burial in Gorleben.

The German Government termed this a provisional solution, needed in order to keep the country's nuclear programme on track. No new power station can be commissioned without firm contracts establishing how the waste will be disposed of.

Without Gorleben, Germany's 21 nuclear power stations would grind to a halt. It has become one of the country's least loved patches of woodland. From yesterday it was also one of the most secure, resembling a castle under siege.



Riot police provide an escort for a nuclear waste container in Dannenberg, northern Germany, yesterday

Russians fear disaster at reprocessing plant

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

YEVGENI DROZHKO, deputy head of Russia's vast secret nuclear reprocessing plant in Mayak, central Siberia, has given a warning that the accident-prone facility is so unstable that it could cause a huge nuclear disaster.

A government minister, Viktor Vladimirov, also admitted that the amount of radioactive waste dumped

around the reprocessing plant was far higher than the radiation spewed out of Chernobyl during the disastrous explosion ten years ago.

Their warnings came two weeks after a nuclear summit in Moscow agreed that the West must take urgent measures to stabilise Russia's ageing nuclear installations.

Mayak is Russia's only nuclear reprocessing plant. It stores over 500,000 tonnes of solid nuclear waste, more

than 523 million cubic yards of liquid nuclear waste, and handles waste generated by Russia's nuclear submarines.

Mr Vladimirov, the Deputy Emergency Situations Minister, said Mayak — once shrouded in secrecy — had suffered serious accidents.

The accidents — in 1949, 1957 and 1967 — were hushed up. Western environmentalists who have visited Mayak have called it a "clockwork bomb". Some 10,000 families

evacuated from contaminated areas are living in makeshift houses put up 30 years ago.

□ Moscow: A Russian nuclear scientist trying to smuggle abroad fissionable material has been detained, authorities said yesterday (Thomas de Waal writes). The unnamed scientist was detained in the west Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. Tass said he had 2.2lb of high-grade material; this suggests it was weapons-grade plutonium.

Political parrots hawk India slogans

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA'S strangest general election, conducted with parrots and an uncommon lack of violence, effectively ended last night. The outcome will be chaotic, with no party able to claim a parliamentary majority. The shape of the next Government will be decided over the coming days in smoky backrooms.

The electorate has never seen its politicians so well behaved. The Janata Dal (People's Party), looking for cheap ways of campaigning because of new spending limits, released parrots trained to chant political slogans.

The wheeling and dealing to form the first national coalition will doubtless involve bribing MPs for their support, as the Congress Party did when it fell narrowly short of a majority in the 1991 election. The new Government may be unstable and short-lived. The muddled result marks the end of the Congress Party's towering dominance of politics since independence in 1947.

The detailed result will be known by Friday, and Congress is likely to be in the strongest position to head a coalition with parties from the so-called Third Force, an alliance formed by the National Front and Left Front combines. Congress's main rival, the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party, is short of potential parliamentary allies because of its extremist anti-Muslim tendencies.

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Get personal if you want to get ahead

Spymasters select new targets after Cold War

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE agenda for Britain's Secret Intelligence Service operating in Moscow has changed dramatically over the past four decades. Yet there is as much thirst for information today as there was in the 1950s, when the greatest MI6 scoops included acquiring published railway timetables and street maps.

However, the focus has changed. There is no longer a desperate need to seek out covert defence equipment plans because Russia's military-industrial empire is a shadow of its former self.

Today MI6 is more likely to be interested in acquiring secret intelligence material which adds weight to political assessments made by the British Embassy diplomatic staff on key issues such as Russian foreign policy, arms sales and the state of the economy.

MI6's tasks in Moscow are set by the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee, represented by the heads of MI5, MI6, GCHQ — which is the Government's signals intelligence headquarters — the Defence Intelligence Staff, and officials from government departments, including the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The committee, now chaired by a former senior official from the Northern Ireland Office, lays detailed requirements and tasking on MI6 and GCHQ.

These requirements, a mixture of specific requests for secret intelligence from key government departments, are reviewed annually by the Cabinet Office Intelligence Co-ordinator, now a former senior director from MI5.

Category A intelligence — high priority information — covers such areas as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The committee has assessed that Russia poses no direct military threat to Britain or NATO, but the Russians still have a formidable strategic capability and the largest conventional armed forces in

A TALE OF TWO EMBASSIES



Ambassador: Anatoli Adamishin, appointed September 1994. Aged 58. A former deputy Foreign Minister and ambassador in Rome until 1992, held special brief on Africa in 1993, including attempt to persuade Cuba to withdraw troops from Angola.

Number of diplomats accredited (1995): 45

Senior staff: Guernan Givens, minister counsellor and deputy ambassador; a Georgian who was ambassador to Ireland in 1991; Ivan Zolotov, economic counsellor; Nikolai Treilshnikov, trade representative; Aleksandr Prosvirkin, Consul General; Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Pronin, defence attaché.

Intelligence targets: Nato and the state of the British armed forces; Anglo-American defence and intelligence co-operation; economic strategy; British interests in world trouble spots such as the Middle East and the Balkans; aviation and high tech industries; scientific research.

History of spying: Deeply involved in espionage during the Cold War, especially in Stalin's period; recruited and ran Soviet spies in Britain, including the Krogers; active in support of the British Communist Party and of communist trade union activities; main centre for Soviet intelligence in Western Europe until 1971 when 105 diplomats, journalists and trade representatives expelled; KGB espion chief during Andropov's time was Oleg Gordievsky, since defected.



Ambassador: Sir Andrew Wood. Aged 58. Appointed in 1995. Formerly Chief Clerk at Foreign Office, in charge of personnel. Previously served as ambassador to Belgrade. Earlier posted to Washington and Moscow.

Number of diplomats accredited (1995): 80

Senior staff: Andrew Carter, deputy head of mission charged with following Russian political developments, former Russian teacher at Marlborough; Martin Nicholson, minister, a career Russian expert from FCO research department; Air Commodore Phil Wilkinson, defence and air attaché, charged with building up relations with the Russian military; Charles Crawford, head of the political section, soon to be made ambassador to Sarajevo.

Intelligence targets: Penetrate the shadowy world of Kremlin politics, establish the centres of power in Russia today and monitor President Yeltsin's state of health. Assess the capability of Russia's armed forces. Prevent nuclear material from being stolen, smuggled and sold abroad.

History of spying: During the Cold War one of the key British spying missions in the world. In 1958 Sir Geoffrey Harrison retired as ambassador after being caught in a KGB "honeypot" with the embassy maid. Embassy staff routinely expelled in fit-for-test rows in 1971, 1985 and 1988.

Single greatest espionage achievement: smuggling defected KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky out of Moscow and across the border into Finland.

tial "export" of Russian nuclear scientists and engineers to countries such as Iran; the possibility of a continuing biological warfare programme in violation of an international convention; and Russia's military intentions towards its neighbours.

In London, MI6's Russian counterparts, the successors of the KGB and the military agency, the GRU, are likely to be less concerned with Britain's foreign policy than with the old Cold War-style tasks of acquiring intelligence on new weapons projects and advances in high-technology systems.

The greatest achievement for any secret intelligence service is to recruit and nurture an agent working for a sensitive organisation. The rising number of Russian intelligence officers who have been posted to Britain in recent years, either posing as diplomats at the embassy or as trade delegation officials, will undoubtedly be seeking to develop their own network of contacts and agents.

When the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War came to an end, the number of Russian intelligence officers from the old KGB reduced dramatically. But the GRU which has not been through the same reforming process as the KGB, stayed on in some force and continued its efforts to acquire Western technology.

These days, of course, they do not have the support of the former formidable intelligence agencies of East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria to help them to spy in Britain. These former members of the Warsaw Pact now work with the West and the Russian spies are on their own.

However, the days of the ideological spy have gone. Michael Smith, the electronics engineer sentenced to 25 years in 1993 for spying for the Russians, was the most recent Briton to be caught working for Moscow. He spied for money.

Leading article, page 19



Sir Andrew Wood arrives by car at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow yesterday

Embassy lifts veil of secrecy

By MICHAEL BUNYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Russian Embassy, a stone's throw from Kensington Palace, is a leaner, trimmer, more sophisticated mission now than it was a decade ago.

It no longer acts for any of the independent former Soviet republics and its diplomats deal with subjects that were of little concern to the Soviet Union, such as privatisation

and economic co-operation. Yet intelligence-gathering remains an important function.

The embassy, once notoriously secretive, now functions more like any large London mission. There are regular receptions and press conferences. A press officer handles inquiries and Russian diplomats are in regular touch with Foreign Office officials. The

embassy is strong on the economic side: it has been a liaison point for Britain's Know How Fund, has organised tours and conferences for Russian businessmen, and reports on British economic issues. Diplomats also cover areas such as Bosnia — where there has been close liaison since the emergence of the Contact Group — the Middle East, and British interests in Eastern Europe, especially the former Soviet republics.

Envoys maintain a stiff upper lip

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

BEHIND the wrought iron gates of the imposing riverside mansion, which houses the British Embassy in Moscow and Ambassador Sir Andrew Wood's residence, life continued almost as normal despite angry exchanges between London and Moscow.

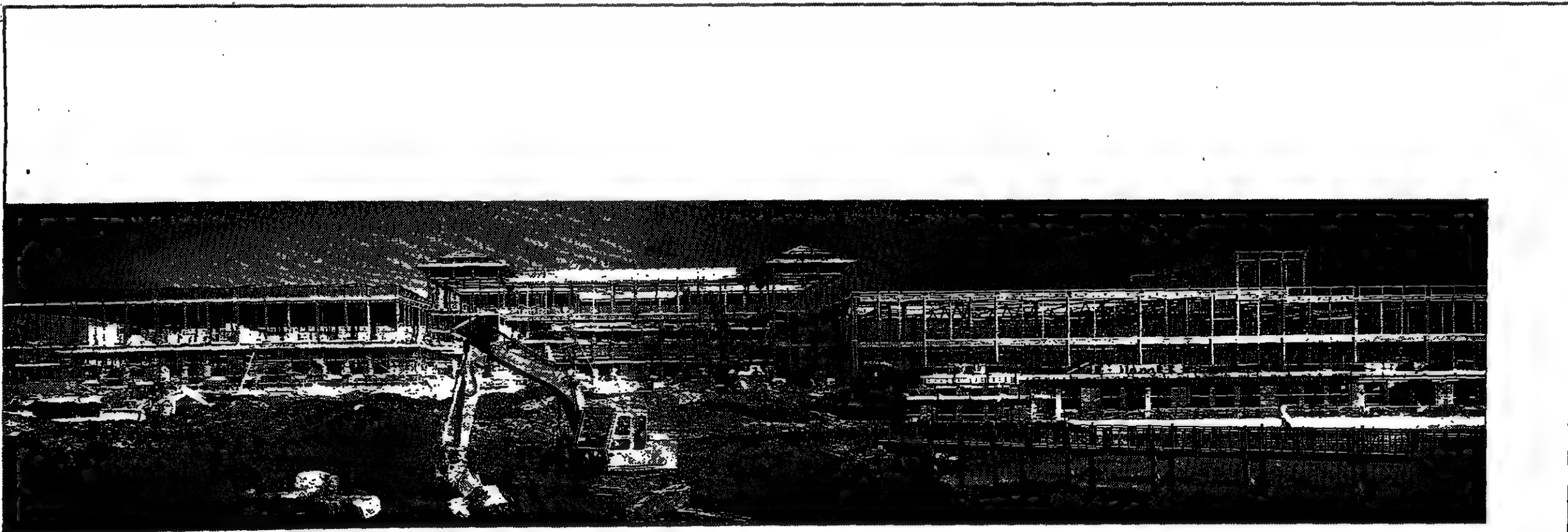
"Our contacts with the Russians have not been affected," James Paver, the embassy spokesman, said. Certainly for a team of senior diplomats and defence attachés, dealings with the Russians yesterday had never seemed better. They were guests of

BRITONS

honour at a Russian military graduation ceremony near Moscow for a retraining scheme funded in part by the Defence Ministry in London.

Other members of the embassy staff also carried on apparently oblivious to the impending show-down. Consular officials processed the huge demand for Russians planning their summer holidays in Britain. The Know How Fund continued to dispense its multimillion-pound aid programme to Russia. Even the social secretaries busied themselves with organising invitations to next month's Queen's Birthday Party.

Nevertheless, behind the façade of normality some confessed that a siege mentality had begun to set in. "There are so many rumours flying around the embassy that it has become very distracting," said one member of the British diplomatic community, who asked not to be named. "The latest rumour is that they will only kick out good Russian speakers."



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Working together to create new horizons

The subtle scent of a woman

Chanel has dominated the perfume market for years. Now it is changing the rules with a new launch



NAEDGE DU BOSPERTUS
28, French, has two-year-old son

CHANEL



LETITIA HERRERA: 25, Mexican-Puerto Rican, born in Chicago and lives in New York. Photographs by HERB RITTS



DIANE HEIDKRUEGER
19, blonde, blue-eyed German, lives in Paris



LAETITIA CASTA
17, Corsican; started modelling at 15



MAK GILCHRIST
29, British, lives in New York, a model for 12 years



Previous Chanel "faces": teenage singer VANESSA PARADIS (left) and actress CAROLE BOUQUET



Ever since Marilyn Monroe said that the only thing she wore in bed was Chanel No 5, the fragrance has been one of the biggest-selling perfumes in the world. Five department stores in London — Dickens & Jones, Fenwick's, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and Selfridges — all list Chanel No 5 (which is 75 years old this year) among their top five best-sellers. Over the years it has had few serious rivals.

That may all change at the end of the month with the arrival of Allure, the first new fragrance to be launched in 11 years by the house of... Chanel. Just as designer Karl Lagerfeld, who has created the fashion look of Chanel since 1983, has, at times, turned the image of the grand couturier completely topsy-turvy, so Jacques Polge (the "nose" responsible for Allure) has rethought the composition of the

are aiming at a broader spectrum of women and saying that this fragrance is not for the exclusive few," says Kim Stringer, the executive fashion and beauty director of *Elle* magazine.

Certainly the current trend in the fragrance market is to attract a younger audience with fresher, lighter perfumes which include vanilla in their make-up (this is part of the recipe of Allure). The massive success of Calvin Klein's CKOne unisex scent which was launched last year has provided the beauty business with a new focus — or rather, has prompted it to refocus.

New designer fragrances being launched in America such as Curve by Liz Claiborne and America by Perry Ellis offer one scent for men and one for women in an attempt to relate to the under-thirties. Previously perfumes and aftershaves would have been marketed as either macho or sexy. However, a recent special report in *Women's Wear Daily*, the Seventh Avenue fashion industry newspaper, notes that "the so-called generation X — the target audience for many of the new brands — isn't as obsessed by conquest — sexual, business or otherwise — as

previous generations were". Hence the subtle approach. The message is as subtle as the scent itself. With so many fragrances flooding the market, beauty companies can no longer assume that their glamorous image will be enough to persuade customers to purchase a zillion bottles of the smelly stuff.

From the differing looks of the women to the understated style of the photographs — matter-of-fact monochrome portraits — Allure aims to impose no image at all. We will have to wait to see if this understated approach is alluring enough.

CHANEL



KAREN ALEXANDER
30, American, mother of five-year-old Ella



IAIN R. WEBB

perfume. It is accepted that a fragrance is made up of three parts — top notes (fresh), middle notes (fruity) and low notes (woody). As the perfume wears off throughout the day or evening, so each takes its turn teasing the nostrils.

Allure does not stick to this rule, but instead combines six elements which overlap and mingle. Each is given equal importance with no one note dominating. It is reminiscent of the powdery sweet smell which wafts through the salons at the couture shows, as the perfumes of some of the most stylish women in the world hang in the air. Sophisticated yet impossible to categorise.

Jacques Helieu, the creative director on the project, has broken the rules with his advertising campaign. Where previously a "face" was chosen to promote a specific fragrance, the new campaign for Allure features eight faces simultaneously. With the exception of cover girl Kirsty Hume the models, photographed by Herb Ritts above, are mostly unknown. A bold move considering the importance of the launch, but one which fits with the prevailing trend in fashion itself: a shift away from dogmatic design statements in favour of choice and personal taste.

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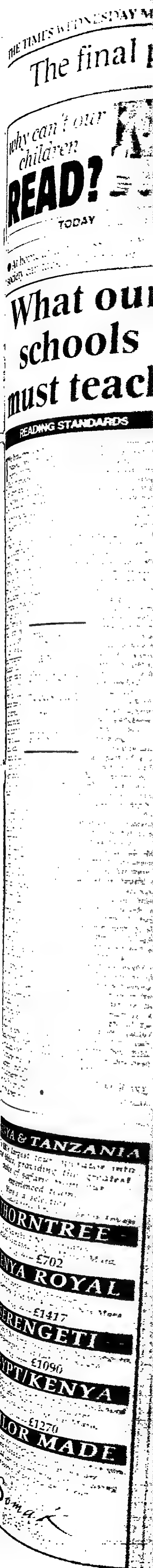
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The final part of our series challenges both parents and teachers

why can't our children READ?

TODAY

● At home and in class — how society can tackle the problem

What our schools must teach

READING STANDARDS

The headlines yesterday focused, inevitably and rightly, on the fact that significant numbers of inner-city children are leaving primary school with reading ages two or more years below their chronological age. The main reason for this is weak teaching.

Inspectors did, however, find good teaching in about a quarter of the lessons they observed. What was going on in these lessons? What is the secret of success in schools where children are making real progress in reading?

The answer is, I am afraid, banal. There is no magic elixir, no radical insight which would transform primary education. Children learn to read in schools where, first, the head teacher places a high emphasis on reading, and regularly monitors the work of teachers, and second, the teachers are clear about what pupils need to know, understand and be able to do to become proficient readers.

But what do children need to be taught? The answer involves a truth which easily becomes a trap for unsuspecting parents trying to find out how a school teaches reading. The truth is that there is no single method which should be taught. The evidence of inspection and the findings of research suggest that there never will be any simple, fail-safe approach which, if adopted in classrooms across the land, would result in all our children learning to read.

The trap is that this can be used to justify a rushman of methods. No parent should, therefore, simply accept the statement that a school employs a "balanced approach" which integrates, say, the teaching of phonics with the use of "real books".

The question is, how does this integration work? Is there real understanding of how the different approaches must be used in a carefully structured fashion so that children make the best possible progress? Too often, the inspection evi-

dence suggests that the reality of the teaching does not live up to the rhetoric.

It is absolutely clear that children must be taught the letter-sound system of English which is basic to learning how to read and write an alphabet script. This is what is meant by phonics. In essence, an understanding of phonics means that pupils are able to recognise the 26 letters of the alphabet and are able to combine and recombine them into the sounds which make up the words used in the English language.

Phonics must, of course, be taught well. It should not involve children wasting hours colouring in objects beginning with a particular letter. It must be approached systematically, and the children should appreciate the usefulness of what they are learning.

It must be taught as part of a programme in which children master the conventions of print: in which they are encouraged to question, evaluate and respond in depth to what they read; and in which they experience an extensive range of literature that stimulates their imagination.

Good schools do all this. They use time to maximum effect by realising that there is much that can be taught to groups of children working together. They keep brief, useful diagnostic records of each child's progress. As their children become more proficient readers, they teach higher-order reading skills such as information-gathering.

A child who is not taught to read is denied access to all future education and training. Every primary school in the country should examine its approach to the teaching of reading in the light of the Ofsted report. Every parent needs to think once again about the progress their children are making in this most vital of all skills.

JIM ROSE

● The author is Ofsted's Director of Inspection

How we cheat children

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

One could almost begin to feel sorry for teachers. In all the agonised debate over children's reading problems, barely a column centimetre has been devoted to the parents' role. But how can this be a classroom issue alone?

Children do not go to school until they are five, by which time, with proper help from home, they could well have been reading for a while. This cannot be a negligible point (and I will return to it, though I can see that it should be discounted from the main channel of official discussion: after all, the purpose of state education is to make sure that children are not penalised for the lack of interest of their parents.

But still, that is not the real reason one feels only "almost" sorry for teachers. In smoke-acrid staffrooms in beleaguered inner cities, they might well be muttering that they are being made scapegoats — but not entirely with justification.

What we are hearing now is the loud flapping of hens coming home to roost. Of course there are good teachers but unfortunately most teachers are not good teachers (I remember the sort of people who stayed on after university to do teacher training and I shudder) and it would appear that it is this category which has controlled the educational debate over the past few decades.

These are the ones who have been convinced that articulation is a middle-class imposition; that if children say "arks" instead of "ask", they shouldn't be corrected because to do so would be to impose our value system on to them, and, indeed, that any formal instruction in reading and writing is nothing short of intellectual colonialism.

The worst part of this whole ideology — apart from the disastrous effect it has had on pupils — is the dishonesty of it all. Nearly all the teachers who poured scorn on strong educational values were themselves beneficiaries of the 1944 Education Act. They must have known that



Nigella Lawson

one is not shackling a child by teaching it to read, but liberating it.

As I said, it's not fair to blame teachers alone for children's alienation from the written word. There is just as much hypocrisy in the parents' camp. The sort who won't let their children eat sweets or chocolates, lecturing us all on such evils even as they gulp down their mug of instant coffee with two sugars, are much the same as those who never think to open a book themselves but who complain nevertheless about how badly their children are being taught to read at school.

Everything starts in the home, everything, and if parents show no interest in reading, either with their children, or by themselves, they must not be surprised that their offspring are unenthusiastic themselves.

I think you have to work pretty hard to stop a child from wanting to learn how to read. I am constantly amazed at their natural inclination towards books. By the time they are one they are visibly attached to them, want to look at the pictures, want to be read to, want to learn.

This is not just a middle-class phenomenon: all children are programmed to learn, that is their survival mechanism. What does change, though, is how that need is met.

I don't mean here to condone the anxious, aspirational model of parenting,



The ideal way to learn — but too often the family home today is dominated by television and children suffer

The talk of children developing at their own speed is not all phooey. Negligence might not be so great, but nor is too much pushing and shoving. Because so many middle-class parents feel guilty about not spending a great deal of time with their children, they believe that any time they do spend should be full-on.

Thus, the ideal parent is cast as some sort of children's television presenter. All

bounce and zip and zest, oozing enthusiasm and activity. But children need a lot of silence and time sitting peacefully by themselves, too. They may want you there, and often they may want you to read to them and with them. Just as often, they want to sit alone, leaf through some books, or nearly alone: you are required to be there but not to force your presence on them. Few homes can provide

that quiet time, simply because the television is on so much of the time. This affects everyone, not just children. There is scarcely any adult, however well educated, who doesn't confess to being too busy to read much — while still finding time to watch an hour of television at night. Reading has become almost universally downgraded: people talk as if it needed discipline, as if it were an ordeal. Why, then, are we

surprised if children think that reading is a "school thing", a duty to be avoided rather than a pleasure in which to wallow? It is such a loss: there is no greater moment of liberation and joy for a child than that moment when she realises she has the power to exist in a private world of her own, to escape into it and to explore it. We all have a duty to our children not to deprive them of this.

Better teacher training improves reading skills

RAISING AWARENESS

HAVE reading standards fallen since the late 1980s? Suffolk Education Authority is convinced that they have and that the fall coincided with the introduction of the national curriculum.

The reading tests carried out annually in all its primary schools showed a "systematic decline" for six and eight-year-olds by 1988. The authority was so concerned that in 1990 it instigated a review.

Dr Peter Daw, the authority's English adviser who co-ordinated the review, thinks the introduction of the national curriculum distracted teachers' attention from reading because they had to include more subjects. "But confusion about methodology also contributed. There was a lot of debate about different methods. Some teachers pursued one at the expense of others," he says.

"There is no single successful method. It is important that teachers are flexible and recognise individual differences in children, using a range of methods and strategies." The review emphasises the importance of children actually understanding what they read. "Phonic knowledge is a definite prerequisite," says Dr Daw. "While the children who had been taught by an almost exclusively phonic approach were over-dependent on sounding out words, those without any phonic under-



Children should understand what they read

standing often had no strategy for tackling unfamiliar words, other than random guessing," says Dr Daw.

The authority started an 18-month training programme based on the results of the review.

In 1992, a second review of the same children showed that standards were improving, probably, says Dr Daw, "because people's awareness was raised, so teaching improved and so did the results."

The authority has continued to monitor reading in primary schools. A small survey of younger children in 1994 showed "a much better balance in early reading and reading methods".

In September 1996, the authority will launch its Reading Development Project, which it will fund jointly with the Government. The project will provide support for schools with low overall reading scores to see how standards can be improved.

AMANDA LOOSE

'There is no time to listen'

TEACHING

a small primary school in the North West of England.

"If you are under pressure, then subjects requiring individual attention lose out. It is easier to teach a class, and you can't do class reading lessons."

"When we listened to children daily it showed in their general standard and performance. Children enjoy reading to adults, especially to teachers. Before the national

curriculum, children used to remind their teacher if they hadn't read aloud by the end of the day.

"Now there are repercussions in the junior classes, because children are not learning basic literacy and numeracy adequately. There has been a decline. Some of them are still on reading schemes when they leave at 11. It is very easy for the over-lis to get lost in the system."

Mr Hodgson, a member of the national executive of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, frequently complains to the Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

He says: "It is very frustrating. If we haven't got time to listen to our children read, then no one else will after they leave primary school."

AMANDA LOOSE

CASH THREAT TO A SCHEME THAT WORKS

BIG CLAIMS are made for Reading Recovery, an intensive literacy scheme developed in New Zealand, about its power to rescue children at risk of reading failure. But the high cost of the programme means its future in this country is in doubt. The scheme was developed by Professor Dame Marie Clay from close observation of how children learn to read. It is not a way of teaching a class but a strategy to catch weak readers early.

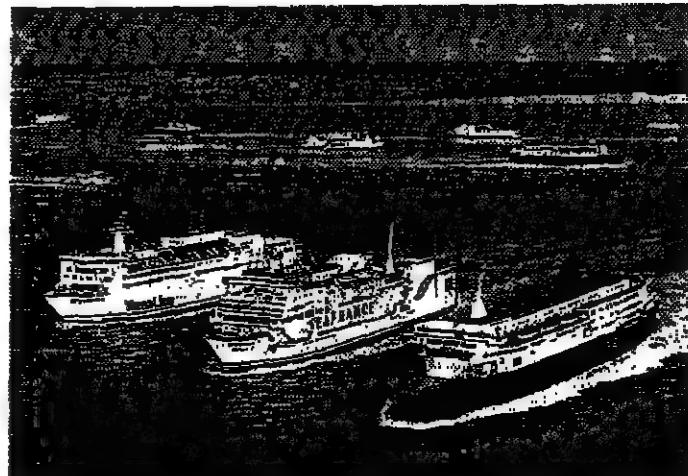
The scheme was adopted as a nationwide programme in New Zealand in 1984 and first given trials in Britain, in Surrey, five years later. Dame Marie herself trained the first British teachers in the scheme in the early 1990s and more than £10 million of government money was put up for pilot projects from 1992 to 1995. Central funding was then stopped and it is now up to local education authorities to find the money from their own budgets.

Every six-year-old child taken on to the scheme will receive one-to-one tuition in reading and writing from a specially trained teacher for half-an-hour a day for up to six months. The children do not simply practise words or sounds; they read books and write sentences every day. Angela Hobbs, a national co-ordinator of Reading Recovery, says: "It incorporates a bit of the best of everything. Just about every child makes progress with this method."

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Alan Coren



From Cockfosters to Morden, Pam's assets are diminishing

I wonder, do you have any bits of Pamela Anderson at home? An eye, perhaps, a breast, a foot? I do of course realise that this is a silly question, for all manner of reasons — not the least being that if you did have any such bits, you would be unlikely to tell me about it, you would not write in and say, "Yes, glad you asked, I happen to have a finger and an ear" — it is simply that I need to find a way into today's farrago, and I can think of no other, because it is that kind of farrago, it does not have a beginning, a middle, and an end, it just has, well, bits.

For the fact is that all over London, parts of the great *Baywatch* diva are mysteriously disappearing. Or, rather, all under London, for where they are disappearing from is the hundreds of Tube station posters announcing this week's opening of *Barb Wire*, Miss Anderson's first starring feature film, in which she plays a woman with either one leg or no head, depending on whether you believe the poster beneath Baker Street or the one beneath Kilburn. (You should not on any account believe the one beneath Charing Cross, since according to this she plays a woman with no breasts, a career move which I rather doubt even studio bosses as uncommercial as Hollywood's would encourage.) And do not imagine that those responsible for tearing off Pam's bits travel only the Jubilee Line: the above examples are merely those I have personally observed, but my wider research reveals that countless similar crimes have been perpetrated throughout the system: how the pubescent corpses where you will, from Cockfosters to Morden, from Uxbridge to Theydon Bois, you will find whey-faced informants ready to express their shock and distress at seeing as little as a third of Miss Anderson left standing.

Why? There are, it appears, no simple answers. Even the experts are divided: according to London Transport Publicity, the defacements (as numerous and as widespread as any in their memory) are for the most part assorted political, a conclusion induced by their observation of graffiti which sometimes accompany the knife-work and seem to bespeak the attentions of militants as various (and, normally, as mutually hostile) as religious fundamentalists, radical feminists, backers-to-basics, and phallic-centric drunks, plus (this is now me, mind, and only guessing) a sporadic sprinkling of less corporate complaints from the bosomously challenged, out-of-work actors, members of the Broadcasting Standards Council, sociopathic misogynists, and even, if Finchley Road is anything to go by, music lovers enraged that Pamela's thighs have been pasted over information concerning open-air concerts at Kenwood.

But if you then phone British Transport Police, you get, to a descendant of laddish chortling, the altogether different interpretation that these excisions are not attacks motivated by rage at all, but reverences motivated by infatuation, in besotted men are tearing bits of Pamela off and carrying them home for repasting to their domestic premises. This, I suspect, continued confidently, could well explain the unprecedented extent of the ravages given the tenacity of modern gum designed to thwart wholesale removal, it was quite possible that Pamela was not suffering at the hands of many men snatching one or two fragments, but one or two men snatching many, in the hope of finally rebuilding their beloved in toto. Why else, he went on, would anyone take an elbow, something he had personally noticed only that morning?

The truth probably embraces, it generally does, a bit of everything. To offer us the proposition that Pamela Anderson — emblem, icon, symbol, little cracker, what you will, an artefact put together by the diverse hands of natural parents, plastic surgeons, orthodontists, wigmakers, cosmeticians, voice coaches, couturiers, agents, and hucksters of every sort and condition to be one very simple thing — is now, it seems, being taken apart by hands even more diverse as the result of having become, willy-nilly, one very complicated thing.

It may well be that there is some sort of major message in all this, but I doubt that pursuing it will make us any happier. Unlike the minor message, which is to stay off Tubes for a bit. Out of sight, out of mind.



Too timid to delegate

The age of the region is upon us and Europe is leading the way. But the Tories in Britain have yet to notice

One thing was sure about the ending of the Iron Curtain in 1989. It would not mean the end of the Iron Curtain. I recall the remark of an elderly German a week after the Berlin Wall's demise. We stood by the Brandenburg Gate watching youngsters breaking up pieces out of the wall to sell to tourists. "If only it were that easy," he said. "If only."

Last weekend, the electors of the former East German state of Brandenburg refused to merge with Berlin in a new German region planned by Bonn. The distaste of the Brandenburgers for anything to do with Berlin was compounded by an aversion to edicts from what they still see as the former West German Government. That Government wished to reduce the number of Länder in Germany by half, a wish now sabotaged. The Democratic Socialists (formerly Communists) were the only party to oppose the merger. They have declared the vote a triumph.

Walls of stone can be demolished and their creators can be declared defunct. Walls of the mind cannot be so easily erased. Nor can half a century of European history. The German Constitution may be a model of devolution, but for the states of former East Germany, it is not devolved enough. The Brandenburgers have spoken, and wisely their view will be respected. Britons might ponder that nobody thought to ask Scotland's opinion when London curiously reorganised its local government last year. As with the poll tax, the Scots must do what they are told by the English. Braveheart Wallace wins the Oscars, but he was thrashed by the English 700 years ago, and to John Major it might as well be yesterday.

If supra-nationalism is the obsession of today's European politicians, sub-nationalism will be the obsession of tomorrow's. Those who lived through the Second World War have spent 50 years searching for a glue to hold together the combatants. Their political grandchildren see things differently. Across Europe they are drawing strength from the vitality of sub-national regions. They feed on public hatred of the central bureaucracies that rampaged across their countries in the 1970s and 1980s. Europe's next Reformation will be based not on Delors federalism but on a resurgence of the province, the region, the *département* and the *Land*.

Everywhere the worm is turning. Since last month's Italian election, one topic alone has dominated Rome poli-

tics. It is not European monetary union, or corruption, nor the question of whether former Prime Ministers Andreotti, Craxi and Berlusconi will go to prison. The dominant topic is how to appease northern separatism. The Lombard League is easy to satirise. Its leader, Umberto Bossi, is derided as ugly, vulgar, populist and uneducated — leadership qualities that have long contrived to surprise and destabilise Europe's political class. At the weekend, Bossi summoned his regional parliament in Mantua and called for the "Czechoslovakia option", a new border along the Apennines and an end to the subsidies that pour south from Milan and Bologna to Rome and Naples.

This is a popular cry. Italy's politicians may deplore Bossi, but they do not underestimate his appeal. They will almost certainly extend to the northern regions the "special status" already granted to Sicily, Sardinia and three Alpine provinces. This status includes a measure of political and economic autonomy and retention of a share of national taxes.

Italy and Germany are not alone. This is proving a glorious spring for devolutionists. At the weekend, Spain's new conservative Government negotiated further autonomy, including tax-raising powers, with Catalan and Basque leaders. The Spanish Constitution allows a province to vote itself variable devolution, and Catalans and Basques have made full use of this right. The power to raise income tax is rarely used — Scots Tories might note — because regions prefer other forms of revenue. They prefer not to commit electoral suicide. Modern Spain is a federalist patchwork, with Galicia and Andalusia also quasi-autonomous. The country has not fallen apart or seen its national identity threatened, quite the opposite. As in Italy and Germany, subsidiarity has become the key to national unity. It is a

form of constitutional reform that keeps governments strong and separatists at bay. It is a democratic safety-valve and a check on the aggrandisement of big government. Similar devolution was instituted in France in 1982.

British political opinion, notably in the present Cabinet, takes precisely the opposite view. It contrives to believe both that the United Kingdom is immune from these centrifugal forces and, paradoxically, that it is so vulnerable to them that it must stamp on the slightest murmur from the Celtic fringe. Devolution is dismissed as what weak foreigners do to hang on to power and stop their countries imploding.

This ideology has bizarre implications. On this page yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, repeated the cliché that "the Conservative Party is a national party or it is nothing". Did he mean centralist/nationalist, or merely national? I doubt if he knew. Perhaps he was acknowledging that the party has been all but eliminated from sub-national politics in the United Kingdom. There cannot be a ruling group in the democratic world with so little local electoral support.

In what other states would acknowledge as subsidiary regions, this is even more so. At the next election the Conservatives are unlikely to hold more than half a dozen seats in Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland they cannot even bring themselves to fight an election, despite proclaiming Tory Unionism. The people of Ulster are thus denied any opportunity to vote for or against the party that rules them — or even a party allied to the party that rules them. This crude suspension of normal democracy has continued for a quarter of a century.

In three of the four components of the United Kingdom, the next general election will be fought with regionalism to

Simon Jenkins

Ay ay, spies

SPOOKS around the world are packing their low-brimmed hats and holsters to attend the funeral of William Colby, the highly controversial former CIA chief who was found dead near his home on Monday.

Such momentous espionage gatherings are relished by players of the great game, for whom every wayward flicker of a hymn sheet or collar turned up nervously against the wind can betray so much.

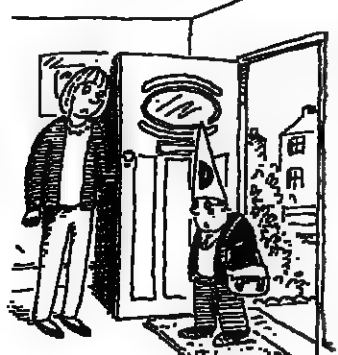
"Frankly, all the people who turn up to such funerals look rather Harry Lime-ish," says Philip Knightley, author of a definitive biography of Kim Philby. "Dark suits, dark ties and huge overcoats — and they talk only to each other. A lot of it has to do with trying to add mystique to their profession."

According to Chapman Pincher, the author of several books on the secret services, "Spies never give their names to reporters at colleagues' funerals, and become very upset if anyone tries to take their photograph."

Over at the CIA, a spokesman said Colby's funeral would be "less cloak-and-daggerish than if he had died in office", but

still marked "high security". Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB general who attended Philby's funeral in Moscow, along with 200 Soviet intelligence agents, met Colby at a security conference five years ago. The two old enemies collaborated on a computer game called "The Spy Craft".

"I shall probably be the only Russian to attend his funeral," says Kalugin, adding to the murky scenario. "If anyone turned up



"We had traditional methods today"

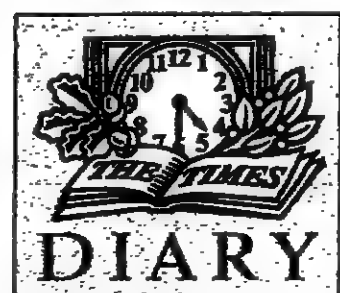
from the Russian Embassy, I would not recognise them, and if I did, I certainly wouldn't talk to them."

After the Oscar success of his film *Braveheart*, Mel Gibson has moved on to less blood-soaked terrain. His production company is making a film about the Cottingley Fairies, the hoax photographs of gossamer-winged Yorkshire sprites which fooled Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Gibson, who was *hanged, drawn and quartered* at the end of his Scottish epic, will not be wearing tutu and wand for the film.

Gridlocked

OXFORD University's Gridiron Club is set to be thrown out of its premises above a pizza restaurant. The days when the Grid, one of Oxford's oldest drinking clubs, held court in a succession of noble townhouses, serving proper meaty lunches and providing a haven for public-school swells, are gone.

In recent years, the club has rented digs above Pizza Express in the centre of town. A series of drunken encounters between members and pizzerias, however, have led to a westward move to the part of the landlords. "If people in the university say the



Grid has to go," said Paul Spring, a manager in the restaurant, "then it is so."

Rum do

GRAHAM DAVIES — barrister and joke-writer to Kenneth Clarke and Peter Lilley — felt like a character in a Bateman drawing the other day: the man who asked for a rum-and-Coke in the Carlton Club. He was rebuked by the barman. "He looked me up and down and said, 'we don't have any rum, sir, but you may like to try upstairs where ladies are served,'" says Davies.

"The barman upstairs didn't bat an eyelid when I asked him. It's odd because I go to the Carlton once or twice a year, but I've never had aspirations cast over my choice of drink before."

Liberal Democrats in Conway, North Wales, have established their new HQ in a former ladies' lavatory on the beach. It adjoins a cafe, the owner of which, finding the palatial WC superfluous, converted it and offered it to a grateful party. The local organiser, Dr Jonathan Wallace, is delighted, saying: "It's much more convenient."

Write on

LATEST recruits to the ranks of the press is the model Laura Bailey, 24. Richard Gere's former girlfriend, Miss Bailey is writing a New York diary for Condé Nast's new Internet site.

Such literary endeavour may help to appease her father, an Oxford law don who was said to be mighty unhappy when his daughter forsook a promising career in academe for the life of a catwalk flibbertigibbet.

Miss Bailey's writing style, as she glides through New York's cultural raffish, is heavy going. It's a curious mix of bathroom angst, doctoral thesis and beat poetry.



Bailey: law unto herself

"The entire crowd were mesmerised," she writes of a Van Morrison concert, "as each of the band echoed his every breath, improvising a kind of primal dialogue with a thousand times the eloquence of words alone... The silence was deafening in our cab downtown as we travelled lost in dreams. The healing has begun."

P.H.S

Welfare must pay its way

Labour's plans do not go far enough, says Frank Field

In his lecture yesterday on social justice, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, set out the values Labour will bring to reforming welfare. Labour is at long last moving away from viewing welfare as a passive service, in which individuals simply receive and the rest of us quietly forget about them. Citizens under a Labour government will be required to put in the "proper effort" to get back to work.

Only when we see the detailed policies will we know what is in Mr Smith's mind in this respect. The danger is that he will be enticed into proposing once again mere sectional policies. Until now, all anti-poverty strategies have been designed and controlled from the centre, deciding which single mothers can participate and which long-term unemployed will be eligible. This is "old" Labour writ large. The hour demands a totally new approach.

The aim must be to liberate all income support claimants. The party should commit itself to turning income support from a passive agency, paying benefits, and checking occasionally on fraud, into an active body. All able-bodied claimants should be expected to draw up plans for what they want to do with the rest of their lives. Income support payments should then be used to help them to achieve these objectives.

Labour should be proposing nothing short of ways to allow claimants to create thousands of exits from poverty for themselves. Labour must reject the paternalism of its past in favour of a belief in the power of the poor when they seek their own self-improvement.

It is also crucial that the detailed proposals embody a belief that welfare is no longer a passive agent. Means tests, for example, help to determine our characters. Means tests penalise work, tax savings, and place a penalty on honesty. Labour needs to commit itself to reducing the size of the means-tested welfare state.

So how can this be achieved? In part it must be done by introducing a new social insurance scheme, as Mr Smith said in his speech yesterday. Since 1979, the Tories have raised contributions by £27 billion, but cut levels of benefit or abolished them altogether. Is Labour going to set up a new scheme run by contributors themselves rather than by politicians? This is surely a positive way of helping to create a new sense of social cohesion, an aim which Mr Smith rightly emphasised in his speech.

And will the Labour Party be proposing a clear social insurance alternative to the plans the Government announced yesterday on long-term care? Practically all of us live long enough to retire. Hence all of us must be required to save towards our retirement income.

Only one in five of us, however, requires long-term residential care. Hence the opportunity to discuss with voters a new national insurance scheme — again run by the contributors themselves. Risks would be shared, and as the scheme would be compulsory, those who believe in freewheeling through life and landing the costs on the rest of us will be compelled to pay.

Such a policy will make a reality of Labour's commitment to support those who work hard, those who save, and those who are honest. Under the present system, anybody who is foolish enough to do any of those three things is penalised. It is in the detail of new policy that Labour will be able to show which values it actively supports, and to contrast its stance with that of the present Government.

Chris Smith's comments on a proper partnership between the public and private sector are also to be welcomed, particularly in respect to pensions. But the policy statements that we are promised will need to go further than the hints so far suggest. The dominant theme of yesterday's lecture was how to prevent social exclusion. What does this overarching objective mean in respect to pensions?

Will everyone be required to save towards a second pension, which will run in addition to the state retirement pension? And will contributions for those outside the labour market be paid for by taxpayers? If they are, there will be costs to pay, and the scheme will entail redistribution, but that is the price politicians must pay if policies to counter-exclusion are to be effective.

Taking tough decisions is sensible only if they are right. Cutting welfare is only a proper objective for Labour if it follows from implementing the right policies. Labour must also face up to the scale of fraud in the current system. The Social Security Select Committee will next week be publishing a report on the extent of housing benefit fraud. During its inquiry, evidence came to light on just how widespread is the practice of working full-time while also claiming a panoply of benefits, often using several National Insurance numbers. This is serious, organised fraud on a scale which most people have failed to comprehend.

I believe that if a future Labour government were determined to tackle fraud — by landlords, claimants and gangs — there could be such benefit savings that it would be possible to introduce within the current budget a major restructuring of welfare. Within that framework we could expect to see the social security budget controlled for the first time.

Frank Field, MP, chairs the Social Security Select Committee.

DEAR SIR GOR
to the Parliamentary Ombudsman

هكذا من الأصل



THE NEED TO KNOW

There is much in Zyuganov's plans that merit espionage

Russia's allegations against British diplomats in Moscow have had an unintended byproduct. By drawing attention to how little is known about who is really in charge of the Russian political, intelligence and military machines, the authorities have bolstered the case for more active intelligence-gathering, whether overt or covert.

The new broom at the Russian Federal Security Bureau, the successor to the KGB, is Mikhail Barsukov, one of President Yeltsin's closest aides. Yet he has done Mr Yeltsin no favours in this affair. These spying charges will cost the Russian President much more internationally than he stands to gain at home. Practical programmes, like last month's agreement at the nuclear summit in Moscow to increase intelligence co-operation against illicit Russian nuclear trading, are also at risk.

The prize for idiocy in this affair goes, however, not to Moscow but to Harry Cohen, the Labour MP who yesterday called on the Government "to stop this James Bond silliness and apologise to Mr Yeltsin". In Mr Yeltsin's Russia secretiveness still surrounds the management of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons stockpiles, nuclear installations, the workings of organised crime syndicates and attitudes within its powerful military. Even more to the point is the possible victory of Gennadi Zyuganov in the presidential elections due next month. Mr Cohen may accept at face value the image of sober-sided social democrat which Mr Zyuganov has been out to project to the West. No intelligence agency worth the name would be so culpably innocent.

Mr Zyuganov's hero is Stalin; his idea of a successful foreign policy is Russia's crushing of the Prague Spring in 1968; and his attitude to dissent can be gauged from his warm sympathy for China's handling of the Tiananmen democracy protests. His copious published works accuse the US, the UN and

International Monetary Fund, the Roman Catholic Church and even the Trilateral Commission of leading a "mondialist" Western conspiracy to destroy Russia's greatness. He presents the new Communist Party which he heads as the force that can restore the "global balance" of the Brezhnev years under the banner of "collectivism, unity and statehood", rebuild the Soviet empire and triumph over the "corrupted West". Mr Zyuganov is a "new" communist only in the sense that he has grafted a national socialist creed onto his belief in an autarkic "mixed" economy. He sees a Russia shut off from the global markets which make it dependent on "external factors", a Russia in which the State would again control the levers that matter.

Western analysts still describe Mr Zyuganov as the relatively "acceptable" face of the coalition of "popular-patriotic forces" that he heads. Behind him are subtler, and more sinister, political operators. Some of his rhetoric may be opportunistic, a deliberate pitch for the votes of millions of career apparatchiks and impoverished Russians who have come to equate communism with a lost stability. But the fear must be that if he wins, the new communists could turn out even worse than the Bourbons — having forgotten nothing, but having learnt a little — mainly about how to prevent a repetition of the collapse of Soviet communism in 1991.

A Zyuganov government that set out to turn back the economic clock would probably fail: there are plenty of powerful members of the old nomenklatura, turned entrepreneurs, who would put up stout resistance. But in the struggle, Russia's transformation into a "normal country" could still be set back by years; and its relations with the West would seriously deteriorate. Seen through the eyes of the intelligence community, now is not too soon to get their "assets" in place.

A TALE OF TWO SMITHS

Labour has come a long way on welfare reform

Only four years ago, Mr Smith, a senior Shadow Cabinet member, made the centrepiece of his party's manifesto a promise to spend more on benefits. Now another Mr Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, boasts that the less spent on welfare, the better. John Smith, the welfare spender, was on the Right of the party; Chris Smith, the saver, is on the soft Left. But the difference is that, while John was archetypal "old" Labour, Chris is shiny "new".

It is a sign of how far Tony Blair has taken his party that what might once have passed as heresy has now become conventional wisdom. New Labour does not intend to address poverty by putting a few extra pounds into claimants' pockets. The stated aim instead is to convert dependence on the State to independence through work. Labour has gone full circle. As in 1945, its leaders now agree that those who claim benefits have a responsibility to seek work. As Mr Smith said yesterday, the citizen must make "proper efforts to reach out beyond welfare and back into work".

The new Mr Smith is also revolutionary (in Labour terms, at least) in his admission that the State need not be the monopoly provider of benefits. Indeed, as he says, there are serious disadvantages in some areas of relying upon the State. Under the "pay-as-you-go" pension system, today's generation of twenty and thirtysomethings will find themselves paying pensions for their parents' generation while receiving virtually nothing from the State when they themselves finish work.

So is there now a consensus between the two main parties on the welfare state? Broadly; though you might not have thought

so yesterday as Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, berated Stephen Dorrell for his proposals on residential care. Like Mr Smith, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, wants to encourage claimants to move off benefits and into work. The difficulty is that such policies are expensive.

In one area, though, Mr Smith may be able to mark out new territory. Conservatives have a problem with forcing people to save, whether for retirement at home or for residential care. Apart from the small element of compulsion that accompanies the state earnings-related pension scheme, Tories prefer such saving to be voluntary, encouraged by tax breaks. The trouble comes because frugal old people are then penalised and the improvident are rewarded: a means test ensures that those with no savings can claim income support and have the costs of residential care met by the State. Those who have saved money have to spend most of it before the State steps in. This acts as a strong disincentive to thrift.

Mr Dorrell attempted yesterday to mitigate this effect by protecting more assets for those who insure themselves against the costs of care. But this approach is expensive for the taxpayer. Labour could more easily propose compulsory saving or insurance for old age, which would ensure that the prodigal would not benefit at the expense of the frugal, and the State would actually save money. While the payments might feel like a tax, they would have the virtue of guaranteeing provision for each individual in later life, unlike the unreliable "pay-as-you-go" pensions. All citizens would then own their pensions and insurance policies — a key part of their pass to a stakeholder society.

DEAR SIR GORDON

A letter to the Parliamentary Ombudsman goes astray

Many thanks for your kind letter dated last July 3rd. I hope you will forgive my delay in replying. The trip to the Dominican Republic's Department of Tourism and Tobacco in my capacity as chairman of the all-party Anglo-Caribbean group overran somewhat owing to that incident with the limbo dancer and a petit corona.

You ask a number of questions with regard to my entry to the Register of Members' Interests. I am very glad you ask these questions, because it gives me an opportunity to clear up any lingering misunderstanding about the confusion between my role as Member for (Mrs Innes-Fleming's fill in) and the 12 directorships, 17 consultancies and 43 foreign trips I have accepted this year in an effort to keep afloat (surely abreast? Mrs IF).

Firstly, you inquire why I do not register the remuneration received as a director of East Wessex Water. My understanding of the new rules following the Nolan Report is that earnings need only be included if the money was received as a result of work undertaken which sprang directly from one's position as an MP. My seat on the EWW board has nothing to do with my seat in the Commons.

I was appointed on the basis of my extensive knowledge of matters aquatic, not least an honourable C in O-level chemistry and membership of the Royal Yacht Squadron. The offer to join the board did come, as you point out, three days after I had left my post in the Department of the Environment

as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Privatisation but the implication that the two are related is monstrous.

Secondly, the suggestion that I should reveal "a little more" about my family holiday in the Gulf State of Alibaba is an ugly intrusion into my personal affairs. It is correct I was Minister of Arms Sales at that point but I was a private guest of my old friend Sheikh Rana al-Rhol whom I first met at Harrow long before his rise to Supreme Commander of the Armies of the Revolutionary Jihad in that picturesque principality. Our relationship is an old and intimate one, which predates my political career, as attested by his long presence on the board of my Tinned Fruit-to-Tommy Gun trading conglomerate Hollyhock. The notion that there was anything sordidly commercial, let alone political about the trip is an horrid slur on a loyal customer (surely ally? Mrs IF) of this company (surely country? Mrs IF).

Thirdly, your inquiry about the fee I earn as a consultant to Westminster Lobbying Plc is a vulgar impertinence. You allude to the company's advertising material and the claim "If you've got the cash, you'll get an amendment in a flash", and my good friend John Major's comment that Parliament should not be reduced to a "hiring-fair". May I reassure you that I am not retained by Westlob because I am an MP but because, as a former editor of Bagehot's works I am a constitutional expert. Hope this helps, with all good wishes, Yours, etc.

Labour view on security service

From Mr Alan Michael, JP, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth (Labour)

Sir, Your reports of May 6 and 7 on the Government's Security Service Bill do not refer to the need for a proper structure of accountability if we are to fight organised crime effectively.

As drafted, the Bill would have allowed the head of MIS to decide when to undertake investigations into serious crime. However, as a result of Labour suggestions and debate in committee, the chief constable who heads the National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) will now be the "guardian at the gate". MIS can act only if called in by the police, and the security service must then act only in support of specific police inquiries.

The real flaw in the Bill is the curious position of NCIS. In theory this body is accountable to the Home Secretary: in practice this is almost meaningless. Even the Home Secretary now accepts the need for a body to which NCIS should report. This body, I believe, should include representatives of chief police officers and of local police authorities, thus tying national police work back into the systems and accountability of local police activity.

It is only common sense for NCIS and the proposed national crime squad to be headed by different individuals: their purpose and functions are different, and the crime squad will be one "customer" among many for NCIS. However, having one body to which they both report is the only way to make accountability simple and coherent at a national level.

It is equally important that both heads should have served as chief police officers prior to appointment. Most crime is local in nature, and success in combating it is most frequently achieved where the targeted activity of police is combined with close cooperation with local councils and local communities.

The Government chose not to take up our offer of helping to speed through legislation in this session. They will lose credibility unless they promise to bring forward a Bill this autumn setting up a police authority for both NCIS and the national crime squad.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MICHAEL
(Shadow Minister for Home Affairs),
House of Commons.
May 6.

Paying for transport

From the Director of Policy, the Automobile Association

Sir, You rightly criticise the Government's transport Green Paper for shying away from a coherent system of paying for transport (leading article, April 26).

Last year, the Department of Transport reported that our country's roads were in a worse state than 20 years before. At the same time some local authorities were spending more on compensation for injuries from broken pavements than on maintaining them.

Efficient capital maintenance needs stable long-term finance, not the short-termism that results from the annual public expenditure round.

Three years ago Parliament stopped being told what was raised from road taxation and how much was spent on roads because the Government deemed the accounting "flawed". No new reporting system has yet been put in place.

The Citizen's Charter should allow us to see what we pay, and those who are responsible for managing one of the nation's major assets should be accountable.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DAWSON,
Director of Policy,
The Automobile Association,
Norfolk House, Priestley Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
April 27.

Lawful bullets

From the Editor of Stalking Magazine

Sir, In his report "Clown prince" is no joke" (Amsterdam file, May 4) Roger Boyes makes two disparaging references to the alleged use of "dumdum" bullets by Crown Prince Willem Alexander while he was hunting at Apeldoorn in The Netherlands.

In England and Wales, the Deer Act 1963 requires that deer be shot using a soft-nosed or hollow-nosed bullet (in Scottish law the term expanding bullets is used) — in layman's terms, "dumdum" bullets.

Virtually every civilised country in the world requires, by law, larger game to be shot with such bullets, on compassionate grounds. This is certainly the case throughout the EU.

Thus, the Crown Prince is being accused of not breaking the laws of the Netherlands. It seems that the press find fault with royalty whatever it does.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BORTHEIN,
Editor,
Stalking Magazine,
48 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon.
May 6.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Custody implications of Sifiso ruling

From Mr Phillip Taylor

Sir, Your leader, "Solomon's child" (May 6), rightly identifies the judicial dilemma facing an adjudicator tasked with deciding who should have custody of Sifiso Mhlangu. However, you let the interpreters of the Children Act off lightly when you highlight this boy's inability to put his own case in person to the courts.

Many who watched the passage of the Children Act in 1989 thought a new dawn had broken. We reckoned without the vagaries of the Court of Appeal. It is difficult to understand in an enlightened England why, when a child's short-term future at a critical age is in issue, he is unable to express his own preference in person to those deciding his future.

It is not good enough in cases such as these for the judiciary to fob distressed clients off by saying that the child cannot be seen in person and that the court has no discretion. As we approach the 21st century this attitude still seems to smack of 19th-century justice.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP TAYLOR,
Richmond Green Chambers,
Greyhound House,
23-24 George Street,
Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey.
May 6.

From Mr Barry N. Speker

Sir, The heart-rending case of Sifiso Mhlangu highlights long overdue changes needed in our adoption law. Proposals set out in the Adoption Bill published in March 1996, following an eight-year review of adoption law, may help to make further such cases unnecessary.

Although under the Children Act

1989 the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration in cases affecting children, this is still not the guiding principle under the Adoption Act 1976. The new Bill proposes to introduce the concept of paramountcy into English adoption law.

It also sets out a formal structure for inter-country adoption. Such adoptions are not presently regulated in current adoption law and practice.

The proposed new placement order would enable the issues of whether the intended adoption is in the interests of the child, and whether the natural parents have consented or their agreement should be dispensed with, to be dealt with at the outset. This should prevent cases like that of Sifiso where a child is ordered to be removed long after he has become part of a new family.

The Government's White Paper, *Adoption — The Future*, stated that political correctness should have no place in adoption. The new Bill intends to establish this aim. Sifiso's case carries more than a hint of such political correctness.

I wonder, finally, if the Court of Appeal's refusal to delay implementation of Sifiso's return to South Africa until the case had been considered by the European courts, was a reaction by the judges to numerous recent cases where the European courts have overridden long-established principles of English statutes and case law? If this were the case, it cannot be just that Sifiso should be the sacrifice.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY N. SPEKER,
Samuel Phillips & Co (solicitors),
86 Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 7.

Labour's tax plans

From Mr J. V. Wilson, FCA

Sir, I believe that there are some policies which the Labour Party could announce now quite safely, which would bring them further support (letters, April 30). These are:

1. A commitment to set up one or more task force immediately after winning the election whose job would be to prepare detailed recommendations for the complete overhaul and simplification of our present tax system, including VAT.

Members of these task forces would comprise experts from the Treasury, Inland Revenue, HM Customs and the accountancy, law and tax professions, and would be required to report back within a maximum period of two years.

They would be asked in particular to look at combining national insurance contributions with income tax, changing the tax year end from April 5 to March 31, and the use of modern technology for the assessment and collection of tax and the prevention of tax avoidance.

2. A commitment not to make any changes to the present tax system un-

til the task forces' recommendations have been put into effect.

3. An undertaking that the legislation implementing the new tax system would be written in clear, understandable English.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILSON,
Broadside,
Limpfield Chart, Oxford, Surrey.
May 5.

From Mrs Sonia Gable

Sir, Roger Brice (letter, April 27) is mistaken if he believes that the abolition of child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds will result in parents depriving unemployed youngsters of a roof over their heads.

Child benefit for this age group is paid only where the child is in full-time education and not to the parents of the unemployed youths about whom Mr Brice is concerned in the course of his legal practice in the criminal courts.

Yours faithfully,
SONIA GABLE
(Tax consultant),
49 Herent Drive,
Clayhall, Ilford, Essex.
April 29.

Mad writers

From Mr Ian Wordsworth

Sir, Research by Dr Felix Post (report, May 1) has led him to deduce that, as your picture caption puts it, "there is a strong link between madness and creative writing" and to put poets less at risk.

He could have saved himself from reinventing the wheel. As the poet John Dryden observed 300 years ago: Great wits are sure to madness near allied And thin partitions do their bounds divide (Absalom and Achitophel).

Yours faithfully,
IAN WORDSWORTH,
Thompson's Oast,
Hartlake Road,
Golden Green, Tonbridge, Kent.
May 2.

Dainty dish

From Mr R. H. Wynands

Sir, With reference to your correspondence on rats being eaten during the 1870 siege of Paris (letters, May 2, 7), my grandmother was trapped in the siege, and I well remember her telling me, as a very young boy, to finish the skin off my rice pudding as it was tastier than stewed rat.

Sadly her first husband was shot during the siege for breaking a curfew whilst seeking food.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD H. WYNANDS,
2 Cane End,
Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.
May 7.

From Mr J. C. Pagler

Sir, As an RAF survival instructor 25 years ago I was myself taught that if something moved it was potentially edible, regardless of whether it had legs or not.

The only rule of thumb was if it looks good try a little and if there are no ill effects, try a larger quantity cooked in the same manner.

Sincerely,
JOHN PAGLER,
14 Wordsworth Close,
Llantwit Major,
South Glamorgan.
May 7.

Memorials for the common man

From the Director of the National Funerals College

Sir, I confess the temptation to scan your accounts of memorial services to spot the stars (Mr Christian's letter, May 6). Yet memorial services play far more serious roles.

Their immediate value is the provision, for all sorts of people with full diaries, of an opportunity to pay public respect to those who have died and to acknowledge their contribution to wider communities. In allowing time and space for the dead, they emphasise the role of death in enforcing the prioritisation of values and relationships in a mortally limited life. They testify that death is never a private act and that bereavement, whilst individual, should never go unsupported.

The memorial services criticised by Mr Christian are those which reflect only on the individual biography of the departed and which omit their common future destination and its religious interpretation. These are at one extreme end of the range of rituals which mark a death.

At the other must come those funeral services which are so excessively orientated to the after-life that no acknowledgement is paid either to the achievements and beliefs of the departed, or to the needs of those most intimately bereaved or to the devotion of those who nursed them.

In the middle of the range come those rituals for the majority of the population whose hidden lives and slighter chances bear no comparison with the stars. For this majority, quieter and more localised memorial services are sometimes provided, both at churches and, increasingly, at crematoria (where 70 per cent of us take our leave). Annual memorial services at crematoria seem to give great satisfaction to those bereaved who attend, sometimes drawing four-figure congregations.

Yet even these provisions are not without bias. For the 30 per cent of people who are buried, only very rarely do local authorities (who own most cemeteries) provide memorial services. For the sake of so many ordinary people who rest in otherwise unvisited tombs and whose obituaries, necessarily overlooked by *The Times*, await the assay of Judgment Day, could local authorities rectify this imbalance?

The *Dead Citizens Charter*, which we published earlier this spring, includes recommendations both for funerals which address the individual lives of those who die and the provision of a wider range of memorial services for those who grieve.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. JUPP,
Director,
The National Funerals College,
Braddon House, High Street,
Duddington, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
May 6.

Getting ahead

From Mr Kauno Viinikka

Sir, Rather more than 30 minutes could be saved on the journey time to Paris without the need to spend £3 billion on a Channel Tunnel rail link (letter, May 2). Travellers could arrive a whole hour earlier by simply adapting to Central European time.

Yours faithfully,
K. VIINIKKA,
104 Vanbrugh Park,
Blackheath, SE3.
May 2.

Images of the wild

From Mr M. J. Kerr

Sir, If we are to allot animal symbols to our political parties (letter, April 27), I suggest that the party we support would always be represented by the lion (king of the jungle). The other two by the crocodile (destruction) and the bat (blind stupidity).

Yours faithfully,
M. J. KERR,
The Culver House,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire.
April 27.

From Dr Geoffrey Pocock

Sir, The lyre-bird sounds a suitable symbol for any political party.

Yours faithfully,
G. POCKOCK,
Denmead, Portsmouth.
April 27.

From Mr Adrian Brodtkin

Sir, The symbol for the Conservative Party would have to be a mad cow. As Mr Blair is sometimes known as "Bambi", the appropriate symbol for the Labour Party would obviously be a young deer.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, NZ.
April 29.

From Mr Arthur Blackwell

Sir, May I suggest, for the Labour Party, a leopard — with its spots suitably changed.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR BLACKWELL,
Bryn Awen, From Heulog,
Bwlchgwyn, Nr Wrexham.
May 2.

Tongue-tied HMSO

From Dr David G. Guild

Sir, Your leader, "An exercise for Cyril" (May 1), suggests that HMSO should have "included at least one speaker of Uzbek, or even Kazakh" to prevent its £3 million write-off of useless miniature pencils and calendars in Cyrillic script prepared for Uzbekistan (report, April 30).

Distinctions between Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Azeri or even Turkmen are not clear-cut. All are effectively dialects of Turkish.

It is likely, going by my own experience, that Azeri is closest to the Turkish of Turkey. Uzbek, which has lost most of its vowel harmony, is further away: an analogy might be English and Scots.

As regards the orthography used for Uzbek I must admit to being not absolutely up to date. Until perhaps the early Forties these peoples used a Roman orthography, based loosely on that devised by Kemal Atatürk for the Turks proper. Subsequently they were not particularly well served by a Cyrillic-based script.

I believe, though I am not certain, they were thinking of returning to the much more adequate Romanisation.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. GUILD
(Lecturer in Russian,
Edinburgh University),
53 Grange Road, Edinburgh 9.
May 1.

No income support for resident

Bochetti v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Morritt

[Judgment May 7]

A mentally handicapped resident at a registered nursing home, receiving care in her daily life but not treatment for mental illness, was not entitled to income support and was in the same position as a hospital in-patient as far as entitlement to social security benefits was concerned.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Karen Bochetti against a decision of Mr M. Head, a social security commissioner, on June 13, 1994 to allow the appeal of the adjudication officer from a decision of the Social Security Appeal Tribunal to allow an appeal by the appellant from a decision of the adjudication officer to reject her claim for income support from July 29, 1991.

Regulation 2 of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations (SI 1975 No 555), in force in 1991 but since amended by the Social Security (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Amendment (No 2) Regulations (SI 1992 No 2595) provides:

"(2) For the purposes of these regulations, a person shall be regarded as receiving or having received free in-patient treatment for any period for which he is or has been maintained free of charge while undergoing medical or other treatment as an in-patient (a) in a hospital or similar institution... or (b) pursuant to arrangements made by the secretary of state or by any body in exercise of functions on behalf of the secretary of state under those Acts in a hospital or similar institution not so maintained or administered."

Mr Philip Havers, QC, for Miss Bochetti; Miss Nathalie Lieve for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said the appellant was one of 12 residents at Coombe End nursing home, Gloucester. All were severely mentally handicapped so as to need a high degree of care and supervision in their daily lives, but none of them mentally ill in the sense of needing or receiving treatment for mental illness. The nursing home had since 1991 been

administered by a trust, which had taken it over from the local health authority.

The trust bore the cost of maintaining the appellant and other residents, but if she was entitled to receive more than what was known as the "pocket money element" as income support from the DSS, the trust would receive the additional payments. Otherwise the health authority would have to meet the trust's costs.

The appellant said she and her fellow residents were not mentally ill. They received care rather than treatment which they did not need, and in those circumstances it could not be said that they received "medical or other treatment" or that they were "patients" or that Coombe End was a "similar institution" to a hospital.

The respondents, on the other hand, submitted that the statutory definitions were such that mentally handicapped persons such as the appellant received nursing care within the phrase "medical or other treatment" and that Coombe End was a "similar institution" within regulation 2(2) of the 1975 Regulations.

The regulations had to be construed with reference to the statutory definitions of "hospital", "illness" and "mental disorder".

In his Lordship's judgment, those led inexorably to the conclusion that persons suffering from the appellant's degree of mental handicap were within the definition of mental disorder; that the care and assistance they received from nursing as opposed to domestic staff must be regarded as "medical or other treatment" within the statutory definition and that the home was a "similar institution" to a hospital.

The key factor was that the definition of mental disorder included "arrested or incomplete development of mind" and "any other disorder of disability of mind".

The natural and ordinary meaning of the phrase was sufficiently wide to include malfunction or non-malfunctioning of the mind not caused by illness but due to some defect in the mental processes.

Solicitors: Bevan Ashford, Bristol; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Appeal panel term breached

Westminster City Council v Cabaj

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Hutton

[Judgment April 24]

Where the contract of employment of a local authority employee provided for an appeal by the employee to a panel of three councillors against a decision to dismiss him, that contractual requirement was not satisfied if the appeal panel affirming his dismissal consisted only of two councillors. However, that deficiency was not necessarily sufficient to render the dismissal unfair.

The effect of that failure on the fairness or otherwise of the dismissal was a matter for the industrial tribunal and it was not within the jurisdiction of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to remit the question rather than remit it to the industrial tribunal for its decision.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Westminster City Council from the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs T. Mansland and Mr K. M. Young) dated June 24, 1994. The appeal tribunal had allowed the appeal of the employee, Mr G. R. Cabaj, and substituted for the decision of the industrial tribunal that the employee had been fairly dismissed their own decision that he had been unfairly dismissed.

The EAT considered that the contract of employment between the employee and the council provided for an appeal against any decision to dismiss him to a panel consisting of three members of the council but, as his appeal against dismissal was heard only by two members, the decision to dismiss him was necessarily unfair so that they were entitled to substitute their own view for that of the industrial tribunal rather than allow the appeal and remit the matter back to a differently constituted industrial tribunal.

Mr Martin Kurrein for the council; Mr Jonathan Marks, QC, for the employee.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the council contended that the EAT was wrong. They submitted, first, that the employee was not contractually entitled to an appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council. They accepted that if the employee was so entitled the EAT was right to have allowed the appeal.

But they contended, second, that in that event the failure of the council to provide for the appeal to which the employee was contractually entitled was not necessarily sufficient to make the decision to dismiss him unfair. The consequences, they submitted, was that the EAT had no jurisdiction to decide the question of the fairness or otherwise of his dismissal and

should have remitted it to the industrial tribunal.

By paragraph 5(3) of the council's disciplinary code the chief executive was required "to convene a meeting of the appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council". The "appeal tribunal" was not otherwise defined. Thus it was plain that for the purposes of the disciplinary code it was required to consist of three members of the council.

Moreover, although the appeal tribunal might for some purposes have been a subcommittee of the council, the chief executive was required to convene a meeting of the appeal tribunal not of a committee or subcommittee of the council to which the provisions of the standing orders of the council as to quorum might apply.

The normal meaning of the word "convene" was "to cause to come together". A requirement to cause three people to come together was not satisfied by summoning three people if only two appeared or by causing only two people to come together.

The point was a short one. His Lordship had no doubt that the council were contractually obliged through their chief executive to provide an appeal tribunal of three members of the council and did not perform that contract with the employee in that respect before dismissing him.

Accordingly, the second question arose as to the effect of that failure on the fairness or otherwise of the dismissal and whether it was the jurisdiction of the EAT to decide the question rather than remit it to the industrial tribunal for their decision.

The question of fairness was posed by section 5(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. The appeal to the EAT was restricted by section 136(1) to "a question of law arising from any decision of, or arising in any proceedings before, an industrial tribunal". But that did not mean that whenever an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal was allowed the matter had to be remitted to the industrial tribunal.

Thus the question was whether the failure of the council to observe their own contractually enforceable disciplinary procedure inevitably required the industrial tribunal properly instructed to conclude that the dismissal of the employee was unfair.

Counsel for the council submitted that it did not. He accepted that it might be contended that it would be a matter for the industrial tribunal to determine whether it did.

These submissions were disputed by counsel for the employee. He submitted that the onus imposed on employers to observe the letter agreed disciplinary procedures was heavy; that in consequence every plain and significant breach of agreed disciplinary procedures must involve unfair dismissal.

He emphasised that the reason for the failure of the council to perform their contractual obligation, whatever it was, could make no difference and emphasised the importance of giving full weight to the views of a specialist tribunal such as the EAT.

His Lordship accepted many of the submissions of counsel for the

employee and agreed that employers ought to follow agreed disciplinary procedures and that full weight should be given to the views of experienced specialist tribunals such as the EAT.

On any remission, the industrial tribunal would be bound to consider at least whether the failure to convene a meeting of an appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council impeded the employee in demonstrating that the real reason for his dismissal was not sufficient and the reasons, if any, why the council determined to dismiss him without having observed the requirements of the disciplinary code. The industrial tribunal would then have to decide the three questions posed by section 5(3).

Thus the question was whether the failure of the council to observe their own contractually enforceable disciplinary procedure inevitably required the industrial tribunal properly instructed to conclude that the dismissal of the employee was unfair.

His Lordship did not think that it could be predicated that the industrial tribunal must inevitably answer all those questions in the sense which would justify the conclusion that the dismissal was unfair. They might, but his Lordship did not think that they must.

In his Lordship's view the EAT were wrong to conclude that there could only be one result of a further hearing before the industrial tribunal, namely a finding of unfair dismissal. It was not disputed that in that event the appeal should be allowed, the decision of the industrial tribunal discharged and the matter remitted to a differently constituted industrial tribunal for it to consider the matter afresh.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Hutton agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Colin T. Wilson, Westminster; Kidd Rapinet, Maidenhead.

Malicious falsehood plaintiff did not show monetary loss

Allison v Campbell and Others

Before Sir Maurice Drake

[Judgment May 2]

Even where it was found that a newspaper article had been published falsely and with malice, an action for malicious falsehood would not succeed where a plaintiff was unable to prove that he had suffered pecuniary loss as a result.

Sir Maurice Drake, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing a claim by Mr Rupert Allison, MP, for damages for malicious falsehood in respect of an article alleged to have been instigated by the first and second defendants, Mr Alastair Campbell and Mr Andy McDonald, journalists employed by the third defendant, Mirror Group Newspapers who published the article.

The plaintiff in person: Mr Charles Gray, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the claim for damages for malicious falsehood arose in respect of an article published in the *Daily Mirror* on November 20, 1992 which claimed that 50 MPs had signed an early day motion challenging Mr Allison to hand over to Maxwell pensioners an estimated £250,000 he had won in libel damages from the newspaper.

He found that, on the facts and on a balance of probabilities, the plaintiff had failed to prove sufficient malicious involvement in the publication of the article complained of against the first defendant; he could find no evidence of malice at all on the part of the second defendant.

In respect of the third defendant, the article, which had been written by another of their employees, was false and malicious in that it had misrepresented by a significant amount the number of MPs signing the early day motion and had failed to state that they were all Labour MPs.

However, the plaintiff had not been able to prove that he had lost a book contract because of the article, nor that he had suffered any other pecuniary loss as a consequence of publication.

Furthermore, the third defendant had acted promptly to comply with the plaintiff's requests for apology and correction so that any possible claim that might have arisen had been settled on the terms agreed. Accordingly the plaintiff's claim would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Theodore Goddard.

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America strikes back

BBC1 and ITV are looking west again, says Alexandra Freen

One of the biggest changes in television drama in the past decade has been the decline in popularity of bulk American imports. In the early Eighties American soap operas such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty* regularly attracted audiences of up to 15 million; their successors today capture half as many viewers. And although nearly 80 per cent of money spent by British broadcasters on imports still goes on American shows, they occupy only a tiny proportion of the peak-time schedules on BBC1 and ITV.

That picture is now changing. Boosted by the phenomenal success of *The X-Files* and *The New Adventures of Superman* over the last two years, American programming is staging an impressive comeback in Britain.

ITV has bought the UK rights to two seasons' worth of *Savannah*, by Aaron Spelling, which it will screen in the autumn. The contemporary drama series, about the lives and loves of three Southern belles in Texas, revolves around money, power and greed.

Jeff Ford, ITV's head of acquisition, expects it to mark a turning point in its programming. "For years the only American drama on ITV was *Baywatch* and even that was not in the weekday peak-time schedules. But that has all changed. There is a return to American programming and the quality of American drama has improved," he says.

In addition to *Savannah*, ITV has just secured the UK terrestrial television rights to *The Beast*, a blockbuster American mini-series based on a novel by Peter Benchley. Much of the problem facing American programming in Britain has been the high expectations of audiences accustomed to a diet of BBC classic dramas and high quality ITV productions. The Amer-

ican studios' obsession with half-hour comedy programmes was also responsible for the downturn in US imports. With a few notable exceptions American comedy does not go down well in Britain with mainstream audiences although US shows have always done better on BBC2 and Channel 4.

According to Alan Howden, head of the BBC's programme acquisition group, for years American producers were simply not making the kind of programmes that appealed to British viewers. "Half-hour comedy shows have stopped being the magic money-making formula and American producers have now gone back to making hour-long dramas," he says.

Until the advent of *The New Adventures of Superman* BBC1 had no American programmes on air at peak-time. Encouraged by the success of *Superman* it added *Due South* and *Chicago Hope* to its schedules and then transferred

the *X-Files* from BBC2. With two channels to play with, the BBC has the distinct advantage of being able to experiment with American drama imports first on BBC2, a policy it has adopted for *Murder One*. This year the picture has altered. ITV's acquisition of *The Beast* was done in co-operation with BSkyB, after the network decided to drop its internal objections to doing business with a commercial rival.

With American drama series now slowly edging their way back into the British prime-time schedules and the BBC and ITV competing for BSkyB's favour, competition between the main British channels in the year's US programme market will be tougher than ever. Let's hope this means that only the best American drama makes it onto British screens next year.



The BBC is able to experiment with imported programmes like *Murder One*, trying them out first on BBC2

THE TIMES TOP 20 DRAMA: BRITISH v IMPORTS

April 15 to 21, 1996

Imports Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Audience (m)
1. Adventures of Superman	Sat 20	18.25	BBC1	Warner/Bac 3rd	7.8
2. The X-Files	Mon 15	21.04	BBC2	Ten Thirteen/20th Fox	8.7
3. Star Trek: Next Generation	Wed 17	18.01	BBC2	Paramount Pics	8.7
4. ER	Wed 17	22.03	C4	Const C/Amblin/Warner	8.6
5. Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Thu 18	18.01	BBC2	Paramount Pics	8.1
6. Columbo	Sun 21	14.53	BBC1	Universal Pictures	8.0
7. NYPD Blue	Thu 18	22.00	C4	Steven Bochco/20th Cent Fox	7.9
8. Babylon	Sat 20	17.20	ITV	Greenway Prods	7.8
9. Murder One	Tue 16	21.00	BBC2	Steven Bochco/20th Cent Fox	7.5
10. Heartbreak High	Tue 16	18.54	BBC2	Gannon Television	7.3
British					
1. Peak Practice	Tue 16	21.02	ITV	Carlton UK	12.6
2. Burnt	Mon 15	21.01	ITV	Whitby Davidson	9.8
3. Harrier Macbeth	Sun 21	19.30	BBC1	Zentis/Skyline	9.8
4. Madson	Wed 17	21.34	BBC1	McShane Prods	9.1
5. Doctor Finlay	Sun 21	19.31	ITV	Scottish TV	9.0
6. Ellington	Thu 18	21.02	ITV	Yorkshire TV	8.8
7. The Governor	Sat 20	21.07	ITV	La Plante Prods	8.1
8. Bugs	Sat 20	20.00	BBC1	Carnival Films	7.5
9. Soldier Soldier	Fri 19	21.02	ITV	Carlton UK	7.0
10. Cardiac Arrest	Thu 18	22.03	BBC1	World Prods	6.5

BAB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) Data. Audience figures are estimates. Copyright: no unauthorized reproduction. Repeat/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest audience per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

Christena Appleyard reviews a new history of Britain's much-maligned but much-read tabloid press

Never mind the width...

Broadsheet journalists, on the whole, do not understand the tabloids. They regard them as "comics", occasionally admiring their cheek but more often despising and jeering at their simplifications.

Matthew Engel, a *Guardian* journalist, indicates in his preface that he does not suffer from this tedious syndrome. He admires, he says, the tenacity and skill of popular journalists. Writing for a mass audience is, in theory, "the highest and most noble form" of literature. But, he concludes, this form has become debased, "an institutionalised force for distortion and half-truth".

The ensuing history is a lively justification of this posture. Engel certainly jeers, but, in fairness, there is plenty to jeer at. There was Jumbo

the London Zoo elephant sold to P.T. Barnum in 1882 only to become the object of a *Daily Telegraph* campaign to save Jumbo for the nation. There was the *Daily Mail* hat — a kind of soft bowler — with which Lord Northcliffe tried to solve the primary sartorial problem of the nation. Later came the donkey saved from an ugly death in Spain by the *Daily Star*. And so on.

Beyond the jeering, however, Engel's account shows that the popular press could never be written off as a low-life joke. From the late 19th century it mobilised the newly literate

masses and, in doing so, created modern politics. Before the paps, for example, people could die unnoticed at sea or in fires. Once they had arrived almost anything could raise the perennial tabloid call "something must be done".

From the Thirties the tabloids also developed a new technical competence. Engel praises at length the reign of Arthur Christiansen at the *Daily Express* during which he effectively invented the potent visual and verbal confection that is the modern pop. Here Engel demonstrates a real understanding of the

enormous technical proficiency of the tabloid press.

Postwar, Engel comes up with the usual formula — *Daily Mirror* pre-Maxwell good, *The Sun* post-Murdoch bad. In reality the *Mirror* at its best was simply a vivid expression of a left-wing mood, while Kelvin MacKenzie's *Sun* in the Eighties was an even more vivid expression of a right-wing mood. Both distorted material but not, in the context of the rest of what filled those papers, seriously. Politics was simply never the primary agenda of either paper.

Whether, ultimately, Engel's enter-

taining history supports his prefatory damning of the paps is doubtful. The idea that their distortion is now particularly pernicious probably depends on the leftish view that they are servants of a capitalist conspiracy. Perhaps, at times, they are, but the reality of the tabloids is that they are driven far more by a demotic energy than by politics. That energy has produced newspapers of extraordinary intricacy and graphic power.

That much should be celebrated: the rest — the lies, the hype, the frequent mean-mindedness — can be jeered at by us all, left, right, broadsheet or tabloid. They, after all, know better than anybody how to jeer back.

● Tickle the Public One Hundred Years of the Popular Press by Matthew Engel (Gollancz, £20)



Things go better for tennis star Pete Sampras with Coke

Name of the game

In a subtle, low-level campaign, officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are briefing journalists on the dangers of rampant commercialism in sport. They have produced a spoof video depicting an athletics meeting where sponsorship has run riot.

Never mind the usual paraphernalia of shirts and shorts splattered with brand logos. The England team is no longer just the England team but the Jaguar England Team. The starting gun comes courtesy of brand X, the finishing-line is there thanks to brand Y. Everything from the timing of the race to the action replay carries the name of a brand.

The IOC's video is a devastating critique of what sporting events could be like if the worst excesses of sponsorship were to take hold.

Only a few weeks ago, Coca-

In this summer of sport will we see brand-name overkill, asks Alan Mitchell

Cola and Lucozade were embroiled in a dispute over what drink players were supposed to guzzle during the Coca-Cola Cup final. As sponsor of the cup final and holder of exclusive rights to the sale and promotion of soft drinks at Wembley Stadium, Coca-Cola demanded the right. As official supplier of drinks to the teams concerned, Lucozade insisted it owned the privilege.

Euro 96, the European football championship which starts on June 8, brings the

seeds of another such stand-off. It has 11 official suppliers including McDonald's, BT and Ladbrokes. But in a carefully constructed deal, fans will also be able to watch warm-up Euro 96 international matches where the England team is backed by rival brands such as Burger King, One-2-One and Littlewoods.

So are fans fed up with having brand names rammed down their throats? Not at all, says Peter Sprogis, managing director of the broadcast arm of ISL, the international sports sponsorship firm which oversaw the Euro 96 deal. Fans nowadays understand that if you do not have sponsorship, you do not have top sports, he says. There is always "a danger of fragmentation and overkill", he admits. But, he insists, sophisticated sponsors understand the limits.

His claim will be tested to destruction this summer. Already dubbed the summer of sport, the timetable of events runs like this. For three weeks to the end of June England hosts Euro 96. Seven days later Wimbledon reaches its climax hotly pursued by the British Grand Prix and the Atlanta Olympics. And sports fans can soak up any spare moments with the rugby league Super League and the cricket season.

By the end of the summer the British "will have sport coming out of their ears", says Andy Bolden, of the media buyer CIA Media. But for high-profile companies such as Coca-Cola, backing Euro 96, the Olympics and Wimbledon, it is marketing heaven.

A little more night music

Why Radio 3 should realise that audience size doesn't matter

Listening to Mozart can make you more intelligent, according to Channel 4's new *Music and Mind* series which began on Sunday. Does it follow, I wonder, that listening to Classic FM can make you less intelligent? Hearing *Gaite Parisienne*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods* and *Grieg's Piano Concerto* for the twelfth time in a week, I feel my brain soften — in spite of taking the precaution of switching stations during all the commercials.

Radio 3 began 24-hour broadcasting last weekend, ludicrously preoccupied with catching up with Classic FM. Its anxiety is misplaced. Classic FM is so far ahead — outdrawing Radio 3 by about three to one — that Radio 3 will never catch up. Also Classic draws from a different audience pool. Its real BBC rival is Radio 4. Its listeners switch to Radio 4 to listen to the news, then back for more hoary musical favourites.

For Radio 3, size should not matter. It holds a 1 per cent share of the national listening audience and is in no danger of disappearing, unlike the new women's radio station, Vival (the exclamation mark indicates an audience often too small to register on the industry scale). If cost-per-listener values were applied to Radio 3, it would have been consigned to the scrapheap long ago. The seriousness and uniqueness of its output is justification enough for its existence.

Every summer the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts come along to boost Radio 3's figures and to show how popular seriousness is. And small hours music should help.

So why is Nicholas Kenyon, Controller of Radio 3 and director of the Proms, still banging on about the need to change Radio 3's voice? Last week he reminded the conference of the Voice of the Viewer and Listener that their venerable Radio 3 must not sound too "schoolmasterly" if it is to retain its claim to a share of the BBC licence fee.

"Schoolmasterly" is pejorative. A nicer way of saying the same thing came in the wording of last week's Sony Radio Gold award to Radio 3's Brian Kay, as Music Presenter of the Year. Mr Kay was praised for "exactly the kind of warm yet authoritative voice which should be the staple sound of Radio 3" and for attracting listeners who might not normally tune to the channel. Perhaps

this accolade will restrain Mr Kenyon's determination to pursue the demotic sound.

Mr Kenyon's jitters stem from the BBC's own preoccupation with audience figures — an anxiety you might have thought would have subsided now that its charter has been renewed and a combative new chairman is in place. It is undeniable that radio ratings present a particular problem for the BBC as it fights to keep up with the growing commercial sector. The BBC likes to boast about the weekly "reach" of its services — that is the number of people who tune in at some point, even if for a short time. In contrast, light listeners mean little to commercial radio. What they care about are big clusters. There is a difficulty in finding a common measure to reflect both kinds of listening. To its dismay, Rajar, the joint radio research board, found recently that its new techniques unduly favoured commercial radio against the BBC.

To redress the imbalance, Rajar has reverted to its old way of counting heads. The statistical difficulties remain, however, and may increase as the growing numbers of new stations enter the market. There is some advantage in the confusion to the BBC: for some time it will be able to claim that published audience figures do not do it justice. Mr Kenyon, for his part, is saved from having to answer awkward questions about any changes in the size of the audience for Radio 3's *Morning Choice* by his imposition of the transatlantic tones of Paul Gambaccini.

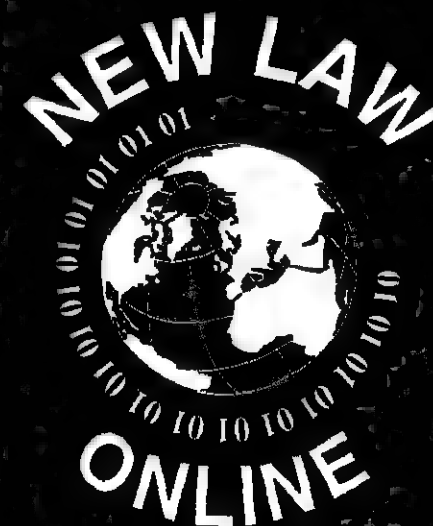
Mr Kenyon insists that a more approachable voice is needed for Radio 3 because Britain is in the throes of a major cultural shift. About the second, he is absolutely right. There are two nations, by generation. But he is going about bridging them in the wrong way. He is patronising the young, by introducing what he supposes to be their language.

The generation gap will heal itself without any help from voices with a smile. Research by the Broadcasting Standards Council shows the divide disappearing as the 1960s generation gets older. The new middle-aged are less tense about bad language and sex than their parents were. Yet their tolerance moderates as they have children of their own. Radio 3 should stay intelligent and authoritative. It should act its age.



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NEWS

MPs defy earnings disclosure rule

A dozen Conservatives and two Labour MPs laid themselves open to official complaints by refusing to reveal details of how much they earn from their activities outside Parliament.

The former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath and three former ministers — David Mellor, Norman Lamont and Kenneth Baker — were among those who angered colleagues by declining to conform with new rules requiring them to divulge outside earnings that result from their membership of Parliament. Page 1

Dorrell accused of betrayal over elderly

Stephen Dorrell outlined long-awaited plans to prevent pensioners having to sell their homes to pay for the costs of residential care. The Government was immediately accused by the opposition parties of "betraying the elderly". Page 1

Spying dilemma

A widening rift emerged within the Russian Government about how to proceed in the spying dispute with Britain. Hawkish security chiefs demanded mass expulsions. Pages 1, 15

Rape suspect named

Detectives hunting a rapist and robber named their top suspect. They also issued a photograph of Rodney Michael Smith, 30, to protect the public. Page 1

Right to sue

The House of Lords passed an amendment which will give MPs and peers new rights to sue newspapers over reports of their parliamentary activities. Page 2

Strangler sentenced

A loner who enticed two young boys to their deaths during a summer afternoon's fishing trip was given a double life sentence. Steven Heaney strangled and stabbed his victims. Page 3

Teaching criticised

Gillian Shepherd demanded a return to traditional teaching methods after a survey found that 20 per cent of seven-year-olds in three London boroughs could not read. Page 4

Lottery winner

Wealth beyond the dreams of avarice would not change him, Karl Crompton said as he clutched a cheque for £10 million, his share of the lottery jackpot. Page 5

Artist defends his careworn Queen

The latest artist to paint the Queen insisted that he had produced an honest portrait — despite making her look as though she had reached her 70 years the hard way. Antony Williams, 31, won his £15,000 commission from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters after being judged the best young portraitist of 1995. Page 1

Jury told of fantasies

Two men acted out their dark sexual fantasies when they abducted and sexually assaulted a nine-year-old boy before he was strangled, an Old Bailey jury was told. Page 6

Shipmate charter

Royal Navy warships with mixed crews must follow a code of conduct between the sexes, including no touching or leering or pictures of a "sexual nature". Page 8

Healthy eating

A margarine which dramatically reduces blood cholesterol levels has joined the growing list of food products boasting extra health benefits. Page 9

\$7 billion charity

A reclusive, penny-conscious computer pioneer who died in March left more than \$7 billion to charity, creating America's richest private foundation. Page 12

Nuclear guerrillas

Thousands of German protesters launched a form of guerrilla warfare against a closely-guarded freight train carrying tonnes of nuclear waste from France to its burial site. Page 13

War crime trial

The first international court to sit in judgment on war crimes since the Second World War opened with the trial of Dusan Tadic accused of horrific crimes against humanity in Bosnia. Page 14



Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, Olympic rowing champions, yesterday as they became the first British athletes to sign an agreement that will force the world's athletes to give up their legal rights or be barred from the Games in Atlanta. Page 3

Power: Midlands Electricity, the regional company blocked from being taken over by PowerGen two weeks ago, received a £1.73 billion joint bid from two American power companies. Page 25

Lloyds won an important High Court victory, ending an 18-month ban on the market from collecting £700 million of unpaid debts from names. Page 25

Berling: Peter Norris, the former chief executive, is to be barred from working in a senior capacity in the City of London for three years after the collapse. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 28.6 to 3723.0. Sterling rose from 83.7 to 83.9 after a rise from \$1.5028 to \$1.5114 and a from DM2.2952 to DM2.2993. Page 28

Rugby: One hundred years of feuding are cast aside tonight when Wigan take on Bath in a cross-code challenge match between the champions of rugby league and rugby union. Page 48

Football: Barry Fry was dismissed as manager of Birmingham City, who finished fifteenth in the first division. Fry signed 61 players since December 1993. Page 48

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THE TIMES TODAY

Preview: Richard Mabey explores changing rural life. *Postcards From the Country* (BBC2, 9.50pm) Review: Lynne Truss confused by police border disputes. Page 47

The need to know

Seen through the eyes of the intelligence community, now is not too soon to get their "assets" in place in Russia. Page 19

A tale of two Smiths

New Labour will not address poverty by putting a few pounds into claimants' pockets. The aim is to convert dependence to independence through work. Page 19

Dear Sir Gordon

The offer to join the board did come, three days after I had left my post in the D of E but the implication that the two are related is monstrous. Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

One thing was sure about the ending of the Iron Curtain in 1989. It would not mean the end of the Iron Curtain. Page 18

FRANK FIELD

I believe that if a future Labour government were determined to tackle fraud — by landlords, claimants and gangs — there could be such benefit savings that it would be possible to introduce a major restructuring of welfare. Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown believe that the key test for any Labour government will be how far it modernises the welfare state. That is why the dispute over child benefit matters and why Mr Brown's view should, and almost certainly will, prevail. Page 11

SIMON BARNES

The world snooker championship has cheered us all up. A genuine Bad Lad has turned himself loose and all those who love, follow or have a financial stake in the game are singing hosannas. Page 43

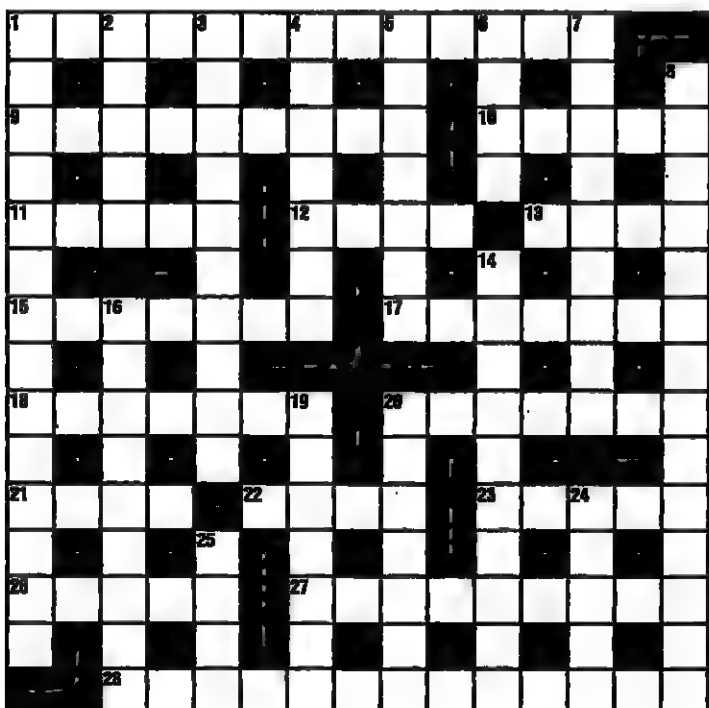
OBITUARIES

Beryl Burton, cyclist; Al Qing, Chinese poet; John McArthur, malariologist. Page 21

LEPERS

The security service: Labour's tax plans; paying for transport; interests of children; memorial services; mad writers. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,162



ACROSS

- Cheats in bridge after bid by opposing players (6-7).
- Main church mouse catcher — he turned fat (9).
- Country taking part in formal talks (5).
- Polish is considered hard to comprehend (5).
- A means to get off (4).
- Wine with the best flavour in test (4).
- One may be at a man's throat — or show affection and attachment (7).
- Initial odds unacceptable, entering home stretch (4,3).
- Gives fellow a deposit back (7).
- Vault supplied with English gin (7).
- A highly incomplete state (4).
- Diligent worker, one in the opposition (4).
- An expedient move (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,161

TOMAHAWK GOTHIC
HILLI I SEED
WELLTODD LANDAU
A DCEB G G N
CZCH ROSEVELT
K W H E R E
M I E L A W S
ESTERILLY
R I V A K I E
ROASTBEE AGILE
N W R T O I
M A T R I X M O H P U R S
E U L I O
NEEDLE SHINGRAY

DOWN

- Taking directions, expected to invent (5).
- Fancy a bloater cooked by English (9).
- Restoration of control, say, wanted in hearing (13).
- Game birds (5,3,6).
- Sort of nut that is given free (5).
- Appear inanimate before the public (3,2,5).
- Worry about horse butchery (7).
- City heels underwriting gold (7).
- The total money that's needed for drainage (4).
- It's used to lift small amounts from cellar (4,5).
- Person typically putting piece in the way (3,2,6).
- Instrument for amplifying one note included by new composer (10).
- Bamboozled inexperienced competitor (9).
- Form lessons without boys (7).
- A pear is taken, originally — alternatively, as a ripe plant (7).
- Currently favoured over an egg-head — that's famous (5).
- 150 characters found a place selling convenience food (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 54 per cent of the solo competitors in the Bristol Regional Final of The Times Abolition Crossword Championship and by 50 per cent of the pairs.

TIMES WEATHER

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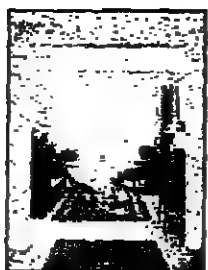
Greater London	701
East Surrey/Sussex	702
West Surrey/Sussex	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	705
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	706
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	707
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	708
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Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	714
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	715
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	716
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	717
Wilt. & Glouce Avon/Bath	718
Wilt. & Glouce Av	

ARTS 33-35



Bryan Adams talks about his first studio album in years

HOMES 41



People are moving less often and decorating more

SPORT 43-48



Clarke brings down curtain on Richmond's past

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 8 1996

High Court backs Lloyd's

By Sarah Bagnall

LOYD'S OF LONDON won an important High Court victory yesterday, ending an 18-month ban on the market collecting £700 million of unpaid debts from names.

The Writs Response Group, which supported the legal action brought by a name, swiftly promised to appeal against the judgment. It said the ruling was extremely disappointing and that "there will undoubtedly now be an appeal and there may well need to be a retrial".

The case centred on whether the Lloyd's central fund could legally pay claims on behalf of names who have failed to settle their debts. Over the years the central fund has been used extensively for this purpose as names have either refused, or been unable, to meet their losses.

The legal action was brought by John Clementson, a name, backed by the WRG. The WRG, which represents more than 2,000 names, argued that the central fund was in breach of EU competition rules and as a result Lloyd's cannot legally force names to pay losses paid for by the central fund. Mr Justice Cresswell, the judge, yesterday rejected the argument at the end of the seven-week hearing. The WRG said it was disappointed by the "paucity" of explanation as to why the court ruled as it did.

A Lloyd's spokesman said the market would not start legal proceedings to recover the debts while it was trying to put together an out-of-court settlement and debt write-off package for names. Lloyd's, which is set to improve its £28 billion settlement offer, said: "The central fund debts are rolled into the offer. But if a name doesn't accept the offer we can now elect to pursue him for all his debts, including any central fund debts." The legal tussle dates back to 1993 when Mr Justice Cresswell ruled in favour of Lloyd's. The WRG appealed and, in November 1994, the Court of Appeal concluded that the complexity of the issue meant it needed to go to full trial.

PowerGen could scupper joint £1.73bn takeover bid

US groups target Midlands

By Christine Buckley

MIDLANDS Electricity, the regional company whose agreed takeover by the generator PowerGen was blocked two weeks ago, is poised to become the seventh electricity company to lose its independence after a £1.73 billion joint bid from two US power groups.

But the move by General Public Utilities of New Jersey and Cinergy of Ohio could be scuppered by PowerGen, Midlands' largest shareholder. The two sides have agreed to meet this week to discuss the generator's potential legal challenge of the ruling that blocked its bid for Midlands and its 21 per cent stake in the company.

Jim Rogers, president of Cinergy, said: "We think they

Pennington 27

will sell the stake. Our price is a full offer."

PowerGen could make a profit of up to £80 million on the £4.40p offer price from the two companies through their bid vehicle, Avon Energy.

But the Government's surprise decision to block its bid for Midlands, along with the proposed takeover of Southern Electric by National Power, the largest generator, infuriated PowerGen. Selling its stake would not preclude a judicial review of the decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

A challenge in the courts would cast a cloud over the bid by the US groups and could lead to a fresh bid from PowerGen.

A PowerGen spokesman said that the company is still considering its options but a



Mike Hughes, left, and Bryan Townsend, both of MEB, with Jim Rogers, of Cinergy, and Jim Leva, right, of GPU, yesterday

decision is expected shortly.

Yesterday GPU, which first held talks with Midlands last November when the generators' bids were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and Cinergy

moved swiftly in the market to raise to 9 per cent their stake in the regional company. Through Merrill Lynch and BZW, they bought 27 million shares to add to the 1.7 per cent holding amassed over the past

few months. There may still be a rival bidder, with a group of US utilities believed to be circling the UK power and water industries. However, the market has been put off by the huge swings in the electric-

ity sector after the surprise decisions from the Government, and there is believed to be less inclination to inflate prices.

Nick Pink, analyst at SBC Warburg, said: "Many of the

institutions are looking to sell to realise cash and the price has been kept in check because of that. There has been a lot of uncertainty in the sector."

Houston Industries has been heavily touted over the past few weeks as being on the verge of a bid. It has already lost one contested bid when it moved on Norweb with Central and South West Corporation.

Midlands, GPU and Cinergy said that there would be no job losses as a result of the merger. The present management team will remain in place and the US groups have pledged a hands-off approach. However, it is doubtful that the takeover will bring customer benefits. Bryan Townsend, chairman of Midlands, said the message to customers was that it would be "business as usual".

Mr Townsend said that the link with GPU, which was at the centre of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, and Cinergy will provide a stronger springboard for Midlands to launch international activities, and give the company a firmer base from which to compete in domestic electricity and gas markets after 1998. "We aim to be a national player in electricity and gas," he said.

Unison, the umbrella union with a large proportion of workers in the electricity industry, condemned the takeover. Mike Joram, head of the union's energy section, said: "If Avon are successful it will mean that nearly 25 per cent of Britain's electricity industry will be in American hands."

Labour again called for a clearer Government policy on mergers in the electricity industry. John Battle, the Shadow Energy minister, said: "At the moment the Government is doing nothing but spreading confusion in this sector."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	5720.0 (-28.8)
Yield	3.95%
FT-SE All share	1877.51 (-9.31)
Nikkei	2168.28 (-17.12)
New York	5437.23 (-28.39)*
Dow Jones	558.53 (-2.23)*
S&P Composite	

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5%)
Long Bond	88.75% (86.75%)
Yield	7.39% (7.12%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6% (6%)
Libor 3m	104.75 (104.75)
3m US\$	

STERLING	
New York	1.5188* (1.5080)
London	1.5113 (1.5028)
DM	2.2891 (2.2848)
FF	7.7748 (7.7573)
Sfr	1.5714 (1.5678)
Yen	168.07 (157.35)
£ Index	83.9 (83.7)

US \$ DOLLAR	
London	1.5214* (1.5088)
DM	2.1440* (2.1543)
Sfr	1.5403* (1.5425)
Yen	164.97* (155.09)
£ Index	98.2 (98.3)

Tokyo close Yen 106.12

BRITISH 15-day (Jul) \$18.40 (\$18.40)

London close \$263.85 (\$263.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Acceleration

Sales of new cars jumped dramatically by 17.2 per cent last month, the highest monthly rise for almost two years. But motor industry executives yesterday remained baffled why private buyers, so long wooed by manufacturers, had suddenly returned to the showrooms. Sales to private buyers rose by a sixth during the month. Page 31

Eurotunnel starts debt talks

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL will today begin talks with its bankers over restructuring its £8.4 billion of debts. Figures yesterday showed that the Channel Tunnel, operated by the Anglo-French company, now carries more than 40 per cent of car and lorry traffic between Kent and northern France.

Every company and City analyst said the tunnel appeared to have reached its natural market share, and the troubled company should benefit from rising revenues through the peak summer season as discount

fares are trimmed. But with Eurotunnel revenues this year predicted by UBS, the broker, to reach just £450 million, against an annual interest bill of some £700 million, refinancing is urgently needed.

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, speaking after one of the banks revealed proposals to swap debt for new shares, giving the bank creditors 49 per cent of the company, announced: "We shall only make progress when the banks come to the table to negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution of a shared problem."

No early deal is expected. Under a standstill arrangement, Eurotunnel suspended debt repayments last September, and has until March 1997 to agree a financial restructuring.

According to French sources, the panel of six lead banks has drawn up a four-stage financial plan. NatWest, Midland, Banque Nationale de Paris, Credit Lyonnais, the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community, all key lenders, have secured approval from 20 second-tier banks among the 225 creditors for their proposals.

Savings in fashion for more teenagers

By Anne Ashworth

THRIFT is the new teen craze, according to the Halifax Building Society. Its annual pocket money survey, published today, shows 43 per cent of teenagers questioned saved more than they spent. Last year, only 28 per cent did the same. Average pocket money has risen from £8.78 in 1994 to £10.80 a week, a rise of 23 per cent, more than seven times the rate of inflation. However, the largest source of income for those aged 17-18 is part-time work from which they earn an average of £26.98, up from £19.23, a rise of 40 per cent.

Suspension of ex-Barings man confirmed

By Robert Miller

THE Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, yesterday confirmed that Peter Norris, the former senior executive officer at Barings, has been suspended from senior SFA registers for three years and has agreed to pay £10,000 costs.

The Times has also learned that MPs on the Commons Treasury Select committee will not interfere in the action brought by the SFA against Ian Hopkins, former group treasurer of the merchant bank.

Last month, Mr Hopkins approached the Treasury committee after the SFA had charged him and eight other Barings executives with the same counts as Mr Norris and proposed to impose broadly the same penalties.

The SFA charges the Barings executives failed "to act with due skill, care and diligence" on two specific occasions between January and February 1995 just before the collapse of the 233-year-old merchant bank. The SFA said that those in charge should never have allowed Nick

Lesson, who is serving six-and-a-half years in a Singapore prison, to build up a level of exposure to the volatile derivatives markets that ultimately totalled more than the bank's capital.

It also said that they had failed to query a bogus £50 million trade with SLK, a New York brokerage firm, that led to a clear discrepancy.

Privately, SFA officials hope that the Norris settlement will encourage others to conclude the cases against them.

Of the remainder, Ron Baker, former head of the Barings Financial Products group, Mary Wain, who was in charge of Equity Financial products, and Geoffrey Barnett, previously chief operating officer, are expected to appeal to an independent SFA tribunal.

Mr Baker's solicitors said yesterday that the charges against him do not include dishonesty and relate to the management and organisation of certain aspects of Barings' business. Mr Baker does not accept the charges and was filing a detailed defence with the SFA.

Barclays move could herald end of free banking

By Caroline Merrell

FREE current-account banking, enjoyed by customers in credit for close to two decades, could now be under threat, after the launch of a £60-a-year account from Barclays. The new account, called Additions, offers a number of incentives, including £5,000 worth of free life insurance, a free automatic £100 overdraft and discounted private medical cover for children. Customers will pay £5 a month.

The Co-operative Bank accused Barclays of trying to bring to an end by stealth the era of free banking. Terry Thomas, Co-operative Bank managing director, said: "This new account is the thin edge of the wedge and, if copied, will mark the end of free banking. High street banks have long complain-

ed about the high cost of providing free in-credit banking for their personal customers, but cannot remove this benefit while their profits are so high. Most have looked at the idea of offering a "silver service" account, as a way of selling charges on current accounts to their customers.

Mr Thomas added that his was the first bank to bring in free banking more than 20 years ago. Barclays, however, rejected the claim that it was attempting to bring back charges for those in credit.

Gordon Rankin, director of personal banking, said: "Barclays Additions will not replace the existing current account." The other high street banks would not be drawn on whether they

too were preparing to launch accounts with charges for those in credit. But they were critical of the Additions concept, saying it was expensive. Midland said it was looking into the possibility of offering customers a current account which had additional features, but a spokeswoman said: "If we did introduce an account like this, we would look to offer much weightier benefits."

David McLean, NatWest head of personal banking services, said: "We are looking at the concept of packaging current accounts. The Barclays account looks a little limiting." Barclays hopes to encourage 10 per cent of its seven million account holders to switch to the new account. It also aims to attract new accounts from competitors.



"Thin end of the wedge": Terry Thomas of Co-operative Bank

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Midlands marriage poser for PowerGen Banks draw up their action plan Takeover strife in southwest London

Spectre at the altar

ANYONE who has attended a wedding knows that awful, pin-drop silence that follows the words "lawful impediment". There is always the split-second, irrational vision of some long-lost lover appearing on the church steps crying "It should have been me!"

Casting a pall over what should have been the perfect day for Midlands yesterday was one discarded suitor, Ed Wallis at PowerGen is still an angry man, and he has it in him to make the honeymoon an uncomfortable experience.

PowerGen is not ruling out a judicial review of Ian Lang's decision to block its own marriage with Midlands, which cleared the way for the joint American bid. But Mr Wallis is not confirming he will go ahead with one. This is as well, since he and his corporate lawyers must know it would have precious little chance of success.

The only possible challenge would be to claim Mr Lang's block for the PowerGen-Midlands merger was ultra vires, that it was not in Mr Lang's power to make such a decision. This is nonsense; bodies such as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are paid to advise, and politicians such as Mr Lang to take decisions based on that

advice, however much one might disagree with those decisions.

So what is PowerGen playing at? There is always pleasure in sheer cussedness, in unsettling all concerned by waiting to the last moment to accept the inevitable. There is also the option of the company retaining its 21 per cent stake in Midlands for a while, perhaps to strike some deal with the Americans. Tempting: the latter might be keen to take agreed output from PowerGen's stations, which could then be sold on to the newly-competitive supply market in 1998.

This drive into supply was always the impetus behind the original PowerGen-Midlands merger. But the climate, if it changes, will most likely move away from the sort of vertical integration PowerGen dreams of, especially if there is a Labour government.

What the Americans have done, by paying 74p a share more than PowerGen was prepared to offer last year, is throw into sharp relief the attractions of the five remaining regional

electricity companies, or at least three of them. Southern is back in play. The company, once ambitious for expansion under its own steam, has already accepted the idea of a takeover from outside.

Northern and East Midlands have emptied the coffers with scorched-earth policies that make them less attractive. But London and Yorkshire's own shareholder packages were more of a singed lawn really. A bid for London at least from Houston Industries looks like the next throw in the electricity game.

A light at the Tunnel's end

THE Channel Tunnel is the property of the banks that funded its construction. That is a fact - Eurotunnel, the operator, owes its syndicate of 25 banks more than £10 for every pound of its market worth.

No one, neither the banks nor the shareholders, is happy about this. French investors have al-

PENNINGTON



ways been more loyal than perfidious Albion, and they currently outnumber their British counterparts by four to one. Today, a trainload of French shareholders, their minds no doubt alive with folk memories of Bastille Day, will head for Eurotunnel's Calais terminal with a demand that the banks write off 30 per cent of the debt.

Not entirely coincidentally, the banks will today table their own early proposals for financial restructuring. Their aim is to convert part of the debt into equity, and recast the remainder into loans at an interest rate more in line with current market rates than the 8.6 per cent that

Eurotunnel is currently liable for, if not actually paying.

The proposals are, of course, designed to extract maximum value for the banks' shareholders. Sir Alastair Morton and his French co-chairman, Patrick Ponsolle, have already signalled their intent to fight a doctored rearguard action on behalf of shareholders, as is their duty.

Investors will still be obliged to accept a hefty level of dilution. The argument will be over how much. The tunnel will have revenues of around £450 million this year, against some £700 million of interest falling due. Keep too much debt, and the tunnel will remain on its financial treadmill, battling to generate enough cash to meet its interest bill.

But shareholders know that they will be better off with a smaller slice of a larger, if thinner cake, than a hefty wedge of something entirely indigestible. If the banks can cut the right deal, Eurotunnel stock could yet come back into fashion, a startling thought. At the last count,

French investors held 56.6 per cent of the equity, compared to 30.32 per cent held in the United Kingdom.

British pension funds and private investors are big buyers of utility stocks, provided the numbers stack up. Almost all are underweight in Eurotunnel shares. At the right price, they might buy Eurotunnel back from the banks - to the relief of everyone concerned.

Trouble in store

IT is a long way from the Scott inquiry to the Department Store That Time Forgot. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, has been asked to intervene in the affairs of Elys of Wimbledon.

The battle being fought out in this leafy corner of southwest London looks the classic case of the unspeakable in pursuit of the inedible. On one side is Panther Securities, a property tiddler with no retail experience that has launched a highly unconven-

tional £6.8 million takeover for a business that might politely be described as soporific. On the other, a management that controls a large chunk of the shares through charitable trusts.

Panther's two-tier offer has been designed to unpeel these trusts, some family controlled, and has had only partial success. Panther speaks for half the company but needs 65 per cent; the management can use the trusts to block this. Ten per cent of Elys is owned by the staff pension scheme - not good in today's climate. This is where Sir Nicholas might come in, along with the Charity Commissioners, although both could probably do without the hassle.

Panther admits the only reason for the two-tier offer is to get around the trust structure. It might also allow control to be bought on the cheap, if not everyone accepts. Elys, desperately underperforming and menaced by a huge new mall nearby, might seem to have little future in retail, and one assumes Panther sees it as a pure property development play. This so, the ideal solution would seem for the offer to be upped slightly and made a straightforward one that the trusts would be legally bound to accept. This might save Sir Nicholas some trouble too.

BSkyB switch into digital will allow 500-channel spread

By PAUL DURMAN

BSKYB, the satellite television group, is pressing ahead with a move to digital technology that will allow it to offer up to 500 channels.

Sam Chisholm, chairman and chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, said yesterday that the new digital service will be launched in the second half of next year, initially with about 200 channels. This huge increase in capacity will allow it to schedule movies at a variety of times and will also increase the scope for "pay-per-view" television.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, has already secured space on a new satellite that will be launched in the autumn of next year.

Yesterday, BSKYB reported pre-tax profits of £17.5 million for the nine months to March 31. This was a 71 per cent increase on the same period in the previous year, and more

than the company made in the whole of its previous financial year.

This advance was helped by a £20 million reduction in interest payments, reflecting the money that the company raised on its flotation at the end of 1994. Operating profits were 32 per cent higher at £222.7 million, on turnover that was 30 per cent ahead at £736.3 million.

The number of subscribers has risen to 5,349,000, an increase of 800,000 on the figure at this time last year. Mr Chisholm said this meant that one in five British households now subscribes to Sky. The total now includes 1.6 million subscribers with cable television.

Mr Chisholm said that Sky made a small profit on its first experiment with pay-per-view television, the Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson fight for the WBC world heavyweight title. More than 15 per cent of Sky's subscribers paid to see the

bout, even though it was scheduled to be broadcast at 4am.

He would not be drawn on Sky's plans for further pay-per-view events. "It's got to be something very special," Mr Chisholm said. "It needn't necessarily be boxing. It might be a concert in the summer."

The extension of pay-per-view into football relied on the agreement of the football authorities, he added.

Mr Chisholm said that it would be a setback if BSKYB were to lose its exclusive contract to show live Premier League football matches, but he described such a prospect as "unthinkable".

The contract comes up for renewal next year, and other consortia are reportedly considering bids of up to £500 million a year. Mr Chisholm was dismissive of their chances. He said that, at the end of the day, there are unlikely to be any serious contenders other than Sky.

Vodafone pays £300m to raise French telecom stake

By MARTIN BARROW

VODAFONE, the UK mobile telecommunications company, has lifted its interest in Société Française de Radiotéléphonie (SFR) to 16.5 per cent, from 10 per cent, at a total cost of almost £300 million. SFR operates one of the two mobile telephone networks available in France, in

competition with France Telecom, with approximately 555,000 subscribers, of which 418,000 are connected to its digital GSM service.

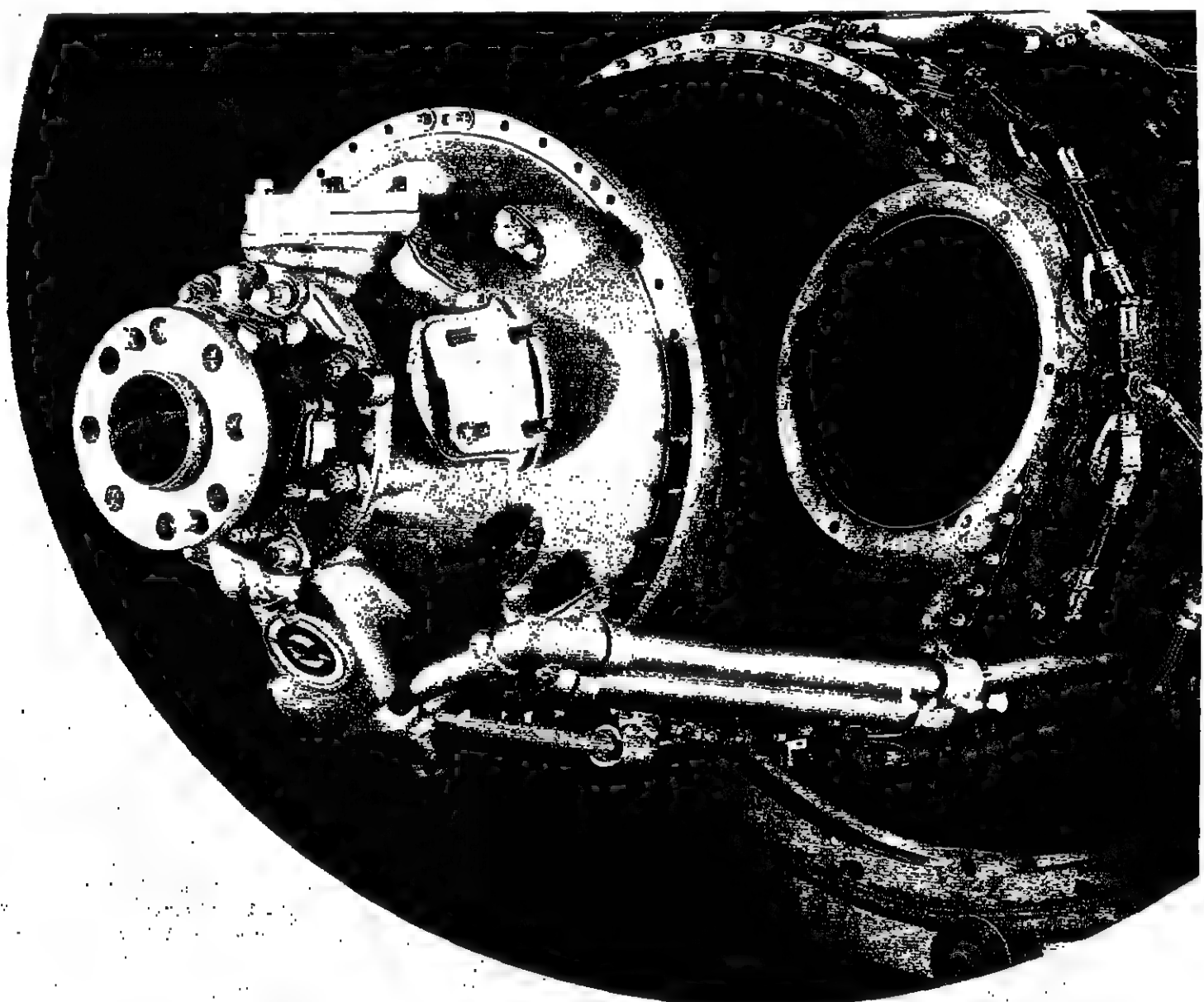
The company claims that it attracted 40 per cent of total new subscriptions at the end of 1995 and about 50 per cent in the first quarter this year. However, competition is set to intensify, with Bouygues Telecom, which won a third

licence in January 1995, due to start its services on May 29.

Vodafone is to pay a total of FF2.3 billion for the shares, comprising FF1.84 billion on completion at the end of July and the balance in July 2001. Vodafone has an option to further increase its shareholding in SFR to 20 per cent by the end of 1997. The acquisition is part of a 1994

partnership between Compagnie Générale des Eaux and Vodafone. SFR's other shareholder is Cofira, a subsidiary of Générale des Eaux, in which Southwestern Bell Corporation, of America, and Alcatel have minority interests.

In France, subscriber penetration was less than 3 per cent of the total population at March 31.



Scope for gas deal says BP

By CARL MORTIMER

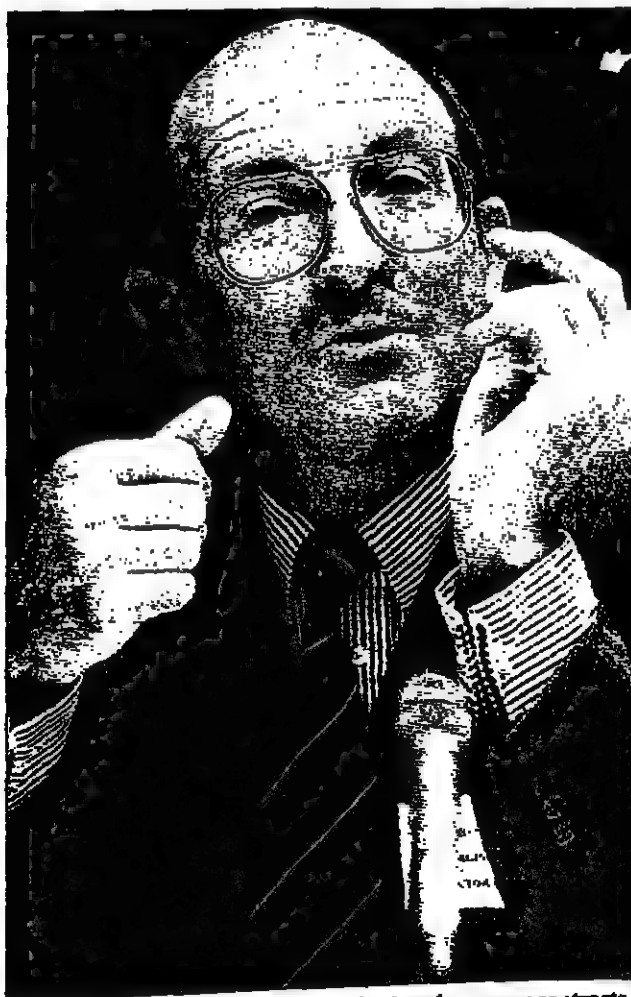
NEGOTIATIONS over take-or-pay gas contracts could provide an opportunity for BP, the oil company said yesterday, after announcing a surge in first-quarter profits.

Stronger oil prices helped to raise BP's replacement cost profit before exceptional items from £461 million in the first quarter of 1995 to £633 million.

Sir David Simon, chairman, said that negotiations with British Gas over the contracts should not be seen just as a problem but as an opportunity to supply more gas and secure more competition for the consumer.

"From our point of view it is an opportunity to achieve greater flexibility of supply, if we can structure it correctly," said Sir David.

BP's exploration and production profits rose £543 million to £737 million, with lower oil production but record gas production, up 24 per cent in the cold weather.



Sir David Simon sees opportunities in take-or-pay contracts

Tempus, page 28

Forte gets MAID service

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GUESTS in Forte hotels will soon be able to surf the Internet while munching breakfast in bed.

Forte, which was recently taken over by Granada, has linked up with MAID, the on-

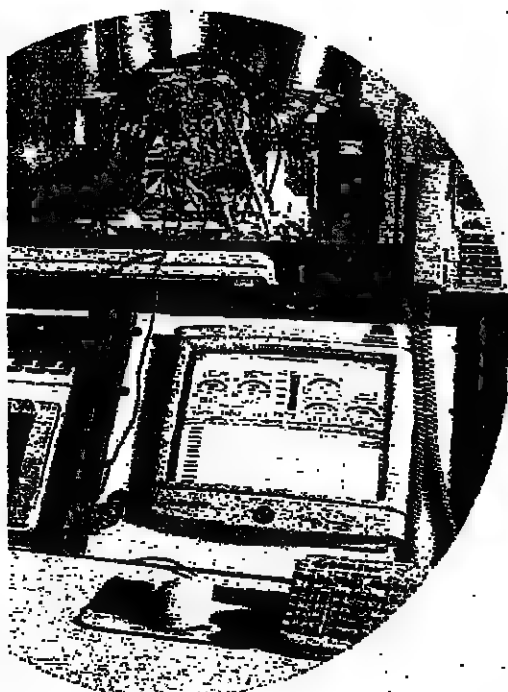
line publisher, to wire up its 50,000 hotel rooms worldwide to the Internet. The new service will include access to MAID's business and news databases as well as direct access to the Internet.

Shares in MAID rose 27p in London to close at a year high of 249p.

MAID said that net access in Forte hotels would be provided in two stages. MAID will initially provide pay-as-you-go access to its Profound Business Intelligence databases through dedicated terminals located in the business centres throughout Forte's

international hotels. But ultimately MAID aims to provide full access to its databases, and the Internet, through in-room television sets. MAID will manage Forte's own Internet homepages which will provide detailed information on Forte services.

Analysts said that the deal would generate little new revenue but it should ensure that MAID becomes a familiar name to business travellers worldwide. The company's share price has been strengthening in recent months after a series of agreements to expand distribution of its databases.



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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Bank Holiday
Shanghaied

PITY the unnamed scribbler on the Lord Mayor's staff at Mansion House, who spent the entire Bank Holiday crafting a memorandum of understanding between London and Shanghai — in Chinese.

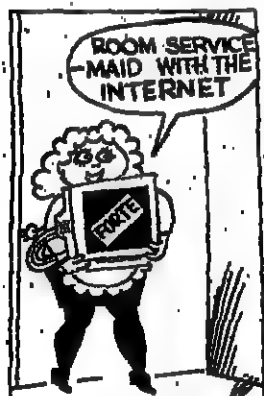
Our hero, formerly with the Foreign Office, was handed his assignment on Friday, and spent the weekend penning glowing phrases about Shanghai's admirable progress as a financial centre.

A duplicate in English and Mandarin was duly presented for signing yesterday. The agreement is expected to ensure favourable treatment for UK companies seeking licences to do business in Shanghai. More mutual back-scratching can be expected when the Lord Mayor visits China in September.

Twin track

MINNIE and Kate Peck have their early arrival at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to thank for their place on the Railtrack share application register. The twins, who were born at 34 and a half weeks, were registered as prospective Railtrack share buyers five days after they were born on April 18, making them the youngest applicants on Sharelink's list.

Had they waited until their due date they would have been too late for last week's registration deadline. Proud father Oliver, who works as a consultant at JP Morgan, said that he had registered the whole family as part of his new responsibilities as a family man.



HARRODS BANK is busy buffing its marble interior in anticipation of a visit from the National Bank of Kazakhstan. The delegation of five will include Nailiya Abdullina, the bank's finance director, who is said to carry the country's economy in her handbag. The gang is coming to Knightsbridge to inspect Harrods Bank's banking software package.

Lonesome today

KEVIN Bartholomew, a former Paine Webber broker in Nebraska, has been barred from the securities industry for selling investments in an Elvis Presley impersonation act that he performed in local bars. As a Paine broker he fraudulently sold investments in his own "Memories of Elvis in Concert" to help to cover concert expenses according to SEC lawyer Jacqueline Johnson.

Monkey puzzle

BARCLAYS BANK is offering lessons in cockney rhyming slang for North American investors. A three-month advertising campaign, which is to appear in the on-line edition of The Wall Street Journal, will ask readers how to make "monkeys" out of "ponies" by clicking on the sterling sum of their choice.

Discovering that "monkeys" are made "in the UK Gov'nor", readers will move through a series of pages asking them to identify other sterling denotations, including "carpets", "cockles" and "Lady Godiva". Worldwide, when 40 per cent of overseas investment in the United Kingdom comes from North America.

The State in search of a more caring approach to the aged

Marianne Curphey looks at proposals to tackle the dilemma of long-term provision for the elderly



Shared interests: a Green Paper suggests ways to ease the burden of care in old age

The cost of long-term care is not cheap. A week's stay at a private nursing home now costs an average of £350 to £500, and a single insurance premium to guarantee care for three years is at least £10,000.

The dilemma for Middle England, which the Government attempted to address yesterday with its Green Paper, is that although only one person in five needs such high levels of care towards the end of his or her life, the bills can be crippling.

Yesterday, Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, effectively proposed that the wealthier sections of society should gamble on their homes or their pensions to pay for nursing home fees.

While suggesting ways in which the state and individual might share the burden of long-term care, he gave a warning that the ultimate responsibility for a comfortable old age lay with each citizen.

The proposals, which argue for more flexible pensions and insurance cover, are the result of 12 months of detailed consultation between officials from the Department of Health and private medical insurers, insurance companies and health care staff.

At present, middle-class families are often forced to sell their homes and dispose of their assets to fund care in old age, ending any hopes of passing on an inheritance to their children.

The document was delayed for additions and amendments because it was so politically sensitive, and when finally issued yesterday it was more than four weeks late.

Consultation is likely to last until June or July, with proposals in place before the Budget in November, and the details finalised by next April.

The Government is seeking views from the insurance and personal finance industry on schemes to help people take out insurance against the risk of needing long-term care, and to protect their assets to a value relating to the insurance paid.

The first proposal involves altering pension schemes to allow variable pensions that could be used as income for nursing home fees. On retirement, the individual would

take a smaller yearly income, with the promise of an increase should his health deteriorate in later years.

Five years ago the first such scheme, run by Lincoln National, the insurer, was outlawed by the Inland Revenue for tax reasons.

Tony Solomon, marketing manager of Eagle Star, one of the first insurance companies to introduce private insurance for care of the elderly,

predicted only a small section of the community would be able to take advantage of a change in the regulations. "At present, most people retire on less than a full pension and could simply not afford to take a reduced pension," he said.

His comments were backed by the powerful National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), whose members are responsible for £300 billion of assets. Peter Murray, chair-

man of its benefits committee, said that the scheme would have limited appeal.

Mr Dorrell's second and more radical proposal is an American-style "partnership scheme", which would protect the assets of a retired person by an amount relating to the value of an annuity which they purchase on entering care.

Currently, only four states in the US run such a scheme: Connecticut, New York, Cali-

fornia and Indiana. Around 30,000 Americans have taken out such policies, but recent research suggests that this is a 50 per cent increase on 1993 and the figure would be higher if more states participated. The take-up rate is still relatively low because the scheme requires pensioners to retire in the state in which they bought the benefit, and Florida, the most popular retirement state, is not included.

In Britain, single pensioners with assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 currently have to contribute towards a proportion of the cost of nursing care, while those with more than £16,000 — including their homes — have to meet the full bill themselves. These regulations have been criticised for penalising pensioners who save.

Under Mr Dorrell's proposals, the elderly would be given a "disregard" of £1.50 on their assets for every £1 worth of insurance they take out. In effect, this would mean that if they bought insurance worth £40,000 then, together with the £16,000 "disregard" for single pensioners, the state would allow assets worth £56,000 to be left free for inheritance, before it claimed any surplus to cover long-term care costs.

The NAPF believes far more people would benefit from this proposal, although buying insurance with a single premium would cost an average £10,000 per person.

"Although this is a useful measure there needs to be more encouragement for tax-efficient savings through additional voluntary contributions," Mr Murray said. "We would like the Government to change Inland Revenue rules to enable people to save throughout their working lives."

However, there is concern that unless the new products are carefully regulated, there could be a repeat of the pensions mis-selling scandal, in which hundreds of thousands of people were persuaded to buy unsuitable personal pensions.

Currently, long-term care schemes are not regulated by the Financial Services Act of 1986 because they are deemed to be an insurance product, not an investment. This raises the frightening prospect that thousands of people could be sold inappropriate plans, which will leave them inadequately covered in old age.

Bupa, the healthcare provider, is in favour of encouraging brokers to adhere to established minimum standards of selling.

The 430-member Association of British Insurers is proposing a code to ensure that products are suitable, affordable and with no hidden catches.

Why an old-fashioned strike looms large at the Post Office

Postal services are highly profitable but are haunted by the past and the future, says Philip Bassett



The Post Office's far-flung services face disruption

Britain's postal services are heading for their biggest trouble in almost a decade as the Post Office and its principal trade union square up for the industry's first national strike since 1988. Barely has the Post Office drawn a line under the morass into which the Government's botched privatisation plunged it than it is embroiled in a potentially damaging dispute.

This at a time when competition has intensified and when the Post Office's long-term future remains unsettled, dependent on the political process and the outcome of the election.

Both within management and the Communication Workers' Union (CWU), which is this week preparing ballot papers for a national strike vote over pay, productivity and working practices, parallels are being drawn not just with the 1988 dispute, but also with the 1971 postal strike, a seven-week stoppage that nearly bankrupted the postal union.

Employee relations in the Post Office in recent months have been poor. A spate of local disputes has broken out. With in the past 12 months, the Post Office calculates it has lost 61,998 working days through strikes, amounting to almost one-sixth of the total of days lost from strikes throughout the whole of British industry.

While the Post Office is expected soon to declare record profits for the Royal Mail of some £500 million, it is also set for its first price increases for two-and-a-half years.

Office makes money: next month's profits will be its twentieth successive subsidy-free surplus.

The Treasury takes money from the Post Office under what is known as the External Financing Limit (EFL), which the consumers' body, the Post Office Users National Council, calls a "tax on stamps."

Mike Heron, Post Office chairman, points out that having taken about £1.25 billion from the Post Office in ten years, the Government now wants almost as much in only three years, a "rocketing" cash demand which he says no other business would have to meet for its shareholders.

Post Office managers are probably rightly sceptical that an incoming Labour government, faced with at least the same pressures on public spending than the current administration, will walk away from the Post Office cash cow.

In the face of increasing competition and with one of the largest workforces in Britain, much of the Post Office's push

is on labour productivity and that is what lies behind the current looming dispute.

Post Office leaders acknowledge that productivity improvements have already been good. In the Royal Mail, it has grown over the past ten years by 33 per cent, almost five times more than the average in service industries.

Even so, CWU leaders charge that in chasing increased productivity by means of greater flexibility, the Post Office has a number of target developments in mind: ending completely second deliveries; shifting the base of Post Office employment from full- to part-time work; and marginalising the CWU from its traditionally strong role inside the business.

Almost a year ago, Royal Mail managers drew together a range of productivity goals into a single package, dubbed Employee Agenda (EA). Both radical and ambitious for the Post Office, it looks dated and already is familiar to most of the private sector.

EA offers a clutch of propos-

als — a new, standard weekly pay rate of £21 which Post Office leaders say could give rises of up to 15 per cent, but which many workers claim will leave them worse off; a job security guarantee, initially up to the year 2000; five days training every year for every employee; a shift from the traditional working over six days to five-day working; and a new productivity scheme.

In return, the Post Office wants changed working patterns, and in particular the adoption of "team working", more co-operative working methods, widely practised in industry, especially manufacturing.

Last autumn, the Post Office's own internal employee attitude survey showed only 24 per cent supported EA, a figure which its latest survey shows has fallen back to 22 per cent.

CWU officials, led by Alan Johnson, joint general secretary and a postman in Slough in the 1971 strike, recommended its acceptance. This was surprisingly rejected by the CWU's postal executive in March.

After some initial wriggling, CWU leaders saw that they had little choice but to enact the postal executive's decision. Instead, they pursued longstanding claims on shorter hours and other issues. Royal Mail managers insist that EA will be implemented one way or another and at last-ditch talks last week rejected the union's claims. They held to the EA agenda, leading the union to authorise its strike ballot.

Here things now stand. Post Office and CWU leaders both acknowledge the depressing similarity of the position in the Post Office to Railtrack two years ago. The resulting signalworkers' dispute was a bitter, bloody and largely pointless battle, with 19 days of strikes spread over four months, widespread business and consumer disruption, ending in a classic compromise.

Post Office managers, at least some CWU leaders, and the business and domestic users of the Royal Mail will be hoping that the issues can somehow be sorted before all that happens again.



ANTHONY HARRIS

After sclerosis in Europe, nemesis?

You had to be alert even to detect the earth tremor which shook a few chandeliers in London the other day; but the Romans would have taken such an unusual event as a portent. Of the British Isles edging nervously a little further from Europe, perhaps? Yes, to judge from my post-holiday mail: it is full of dire views of Europe from a whole list of normally non-political City institutions — some in terms which make the Governor sound tame.

HSBC detects a German recession already under way, and deepening, as a threat to British growth. NatWest agrees, but also points out that British trade has switched sharply away from the Continent: exports to Europe 5 per cent down in seven months; outside Europe, up 6 per cent. Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank sees the EMU as unworkable, isolationist, and deflationary, and advises us to keep out. It is Lombard Street Research, which admittedly declared against EMU some time ago, which talks about Euro-nemesis. As they forecast a mark crisis as an overture to a Europe-wide fiscal crunch, the headline is not really over-dramatic. Better off out of it.

Or are we? The UK trends are also pretty forbidding, according to the same witnesses. True, we have pushed through some of the structural changes which are so long overdue in Europe, especially in social spending. We have deregulated (probably to excess), and now have a flexible labour market with moderate settlements; but the competitive performance of the economy still looks — well, British. In plain words, terrible. Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest points out that productivity is at a standstill, while investment has actually fallen over the past year.

Only domestic spending, financed largely by windfalls and excessive government borrowing, has so far saved British industry from joining the European recession. But the result, as usual, is a widening trade deficit; imports up 4 per cent in the last quarter, and no less than 18.5 per cent from outside Europe. So we may be enjoying a traditional ster-

ling crisis even before reality catches up with the mark. All this may be partly due to the policy errors shown up by Anatole Kalesky last week, but some of the trouble goes much deeper.

Dicks sums it up devastatingly: "The mentality remains firmly cost-plus, with price increases consistently given preference over higher volumes." If you want a picture, simply look at Granada's disgraceful conduct of its Forté acquisitions, prices up beyond the old management's bearing. The old British virus seems to hang about as obstinately as this year's flu. It is more accurately a British management disease, for the foreign-owned companies in this country do not behave in this fashion (and thus help to mask some of the damage). It has persisted for decades through booms, busts, slow and faster growth periods, and it is hard to believe that it would respond simply to better macro-economic management — not in less than a lifetime, anyway.

It reflects bottom-line myopia, an obsession with next quarter's profits which makes it seem sensible to sacrifice long-term growth; seemingly a permanent feature of British-style capitalism. So perhaps Tony Blair is at last saying something important when he declared that City reform will be a top priority for a New Labour government. But what reforms? There are promising hints in plans for a more effective competition policy, and in Alastair Darling's talk of responsible ownership; but otherwise, little to bite on. It would be comforting to hear some future minister showing an unfashionable interest in the Japanese model, which really does show what stakeholding can achieve (as well as how it can come off the rails). Or, indeed, anything specific.

Perhaps they only mean the warring City acronyms: in which case we will go on much as before — possibly our fate in any case. And an unreformed Britain might decline more comfortably in a protected Europe, even a depressed Europe, than exposed offshore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Dragon in reverse takeover



Das Bild zeigt eine Person, die in einem dunklen Raum steht. Die Person ist hell gekleidet und scheint in einer Tür oder einem Gang zu stehen. Die Aufnahme ist sehr dunkel und hat einen hohen Kontrast.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

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[Faint, illegible text from bleed-through or adjacent page]

Showrooms baffled as sales of new cars rise 17%

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

SALES of new cars jumped dramatically by 17.2 per cent last month, the highest monthly rise for almost two years.

The news will boost Conservative politicians searching for elusive signs that voters are at last starting to believe that the economy is now stable. But motor industry executives yesterday remained baffled by why private buyers, so long wooed by manufacturers, had suddenly returned to the showrooms in droves.

Retail sales were up more than 15 per cent over April last year, leading some analysts to the conclusion that the long-missing "feel-good" factor had finally arrived in the car market.

Neil Marshall, director of public policy at the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said last night: "As sales to private buyers were up by a

sixth, the "feel-good" factor may well be coming back. The combination of tax cuts and good news in the housing market may be kicking this marketplace back into gear."

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed sales up to 162,618 in April compared with 138,770 in the same month last year, an increase of 17.2 per cent. Registrations for the first four months now stand at 693,667 (664,134).

SMMT executives are not sure what opened the floodgates last month but Ernie Thompson, the society's chief executive, said: "The strong recovery in the retail market is most welcome. The outstanding value of today's new cars should encourage increasing sales as customers buy now."

Carmakers have been trying for months to entice private buyers into showrooms without success. While they have offered big discounts and incentives such as free insurance and extra equipment, buyers have stayed away, leading to one of the most worrying slumps in retail sales since the recession.

Registrations have only been kept buoyant because of intensive company car buying.

But there were still warnings that the recovery has not suddenly turned a corner. Alan Fulham, director of the National Franchised Dealers' Association, said that the ratio of fleet to private sales was still "wildly out of line". He added: "For true recovery, I want to see the retail market outpacing the fleet and business sector."

There was also sobering news from the commercial vehicle sector which is just managing to stay ahead of last year, with sales up 0.79 per cent last month over last April, but down for the first four months by 0.47 per cent at 90,084.

Truck sales are seen as a key economic indicator to the nation's health but there are few signs of companies making big investments in heavy lorries at the same time as they are replacing the company car fleet.

The ten bestselling cars in April were: 1, Ford Escort; 2, Ford Fiesta; 3, Vauxhall Vectra; 4, Ford Mondeo; 5, Vauxhall Astra; 6, Vauxhall Corsa; 7, Peugeot 306; 8, Renault Clio; 9, Rover 400; 10, Volkswagen Golf.

Dragon in reverse takeover

By OUR CITY STAFF

ARIFIN PANIGORO, an Indonesian businessman, will emerge with an interest of not less than 46 per cent in Dragon Oil, the independent oil and gas company, which yesterday unveiled terms of a fund raising and acquisition. The deal is effectively a reverse takeover of Dragon.

Dragon is acquiring a 60 per cent interest in Larmag Energy Assets (LEA) for \$192 million. LEA is a 50 per cent partner in and operator of the Larmag-Cheleken joint venture involved with the exploration and production of oil and gas from the Caspian Sea offshore Turkmenistan.

LEA shares were suspended at 1½p pending shareholder approval.

Dragon is raising £37.5 million via a placing of shares at 150p each to Satellite Overseas, a company wholly owned by Mr Panigoro. The company seeks to raise a further £12.7 million through a placing and open offer.

The LEA deal more than doubles Dragon's reserves to 170 million barrels of oil equivalent.



John Padfield, Chiroscience managing director, says cash will be used for development

Biotech company soars on share offer

By RACHEL BRIDGE

SHARES in Chiroscience, the biotechnology company, jumped almost 10 per cent to 500p yesterday as it delivered its promised £40 million share issue which guarantees it up to three more years of research funding.

The Cambridge group, whose shares have almost doubled since it excited the stock market with details of its anti-cancer and local anaesthetic drug trials two weeks ago, said that the cash would be used to fund the development of its single isomer and new drug discovery programmes. It also announced that it is buying a pilot-scale development facility in Stevenage from E Merck, the pharmaceuticals group.

The shares are being offered at 410p a share on the basis of one new share for every seven shares held.

Lord Chilver, chairman, said: "In the following year we expect to announce a number of research and development achievements and new collaborative partnerships for our products. This promises to be another exciting year for us. I look forward to seeing the successful progress of our strategies."

Chiroscience's revenue tripled to £5 million in the year to February, largely as a result of a rise in the sale of drug products. Pre-tax losses, however, also rose from £9.2 million to £11.6 million on the back of a 36 per cent rise in operating expenses. Spending on research and development rose by almost 40 per cent to £12.1 million.

Chiroscience's share increase comes amid a wave of enthusiasm for UK biotechnology companies which has seen shares in British Biotech — due to unveil details of its anti-cancer drug trials later this month — jump from 400p a year ago to more than £30.

Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Roche buoyed by Aids drug success

CLINICAL trials on a powerful anti-Aids drug have shown that it slows the progression of the disease and reduces the death rate, Roche Holding, the manufacturer, said yesterday. Initial results of the US study of Invirase were released as part of an upbeat forecast of a further rise in net profit this year after record gains of \$F13.37 billion. The Swiss-based drug multinational is regarded as a front-runner in the development of a successful anti-Aids drug. Invirase, also known as Zalcitabine, was approved in the US last week. It is the first of a new generation of protease inhibitors, which cripple an enzyme vital to the late stages of the Aids virus reproduction.

Surplus boosts Gieves

THE Gieves Group, the Savile Row menswear retailer, is lifting the total dividend to 2.25p a share from 1.75p after achieving an increase in profits to £2.74 million before tax from £1.66 million in the year to January 31. Latest pre-tax profits included a £1.6 million surplus from the sale of fixed assets. At the operating level, profits advanced to £1.48 million from £1.33 million. Earnings were 7.9p a share, rising from 4.5p. The final dividend of 1.5p a share is due July 1. The company ended the year with cash balances of £5 million.

Norwich £50m contract

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS, part of Cable and Wireless, and Racal Network Services has signed a contract worth £50 million over five years to provide voice and data services to Norwich Union. Mercury will supply voice and Racal the data services. The value to each company is about £30 million and £20 million respectively. During the first 18 months of the contract, Mercury and Racal will replace most of the current telecommunications services at Norwich Union offices and in Hill House Hammond, its broker chain.

Albrighton cash call

ALBRIGHTON, the quarries and natural stone company, is raising £1.93 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in output and restore profitability. The company is issuing shares at 6p each, on the basis of one new share for every two held. Existing shares fell 4½p to 7½p yesterday. The rights issue has been fully underwritten by Williams de Broe. The company said the injection of further funds, which would be accompanied by an increase in banking facilities, was essential to ensure its survival.

CRH buys US interests

CRH, the Irish building materials group, has made three acquisitions in America for a total \$29 million. CRH is buying Ritanga Construction Corp, an asphalt and paving construction business in southern New York state, as well as certain assets of Brookes Products Inc., which has operations in Texas, Florida, Northern Carolina and Oregon, and of Foster Masonry and Southeastern Manufacturing Inc., of Massachusetts. Total trading profits for these companies in 1995 was \$4.4 million on total sales of \$51 million.

Gus Carter on brink of takeover by rival group

By PAUL DURMAN

GUS CARTER, the North East betting shop business, is expected today to announce an agreed takeover by Stanley Leisure, its much larger rival.

A year after joining the stock market, Gus Carter confirmed yesterday that negotiations with Stanley Leisure had reached "an advanced stage, and may result in a recommended offer" at a premium to Friday's closing share price of 78p. At last night's closing

price of 84p, Gus Carter is valued at £13.3 million.

Stanley Leisure first tried to buy Gus Carter two years ago but decided it would get a better price by going public.

Gus Carter's record as a listed company is brief but disappointing. Stanley Leisure has also felt the pinch, reporting first-half profits down 20 per cent in January.

Tempos, page 28

China 'spurns' pirate CD deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

CHINA has failed to honour an eleven-hour anti-piracy deal that helped to prevent a multi-billion-dollar trade war between Peking and Washington last year, the international music industry claims.

Angered that the pirating of CDs has risen, since the agreement, to nearly 90 per cent of China's total CD output, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry is lobbying Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, to confront the Chinese leadership during his current visit to Peking.

IFPI's Brussels office said that Chinese piracy of discs and cassettes cost the industry \$170 million last year. It said that China was now responsible for 40 per cent of the world's pirated CDs.

In February last year,



Dan Burton, of Washington's Business Software Alliance, displays pirated CDs in a Peking street market

America and China signed an intellectual property deal, also covering software, after they had threatened one another with punitive trade tariffs valued at \$1.08 billion. The agreement was extended to

include the European Union one year ago.

The problem is complicated by transshipments of CDs, tapes and software through Hong Kong. A report to Congress by the office of Mickey

Kantor, the US trade representative, complained that bootleg retailers operated so openly in the colony that their locations were listed in guidebooks. Twenty per cent of the music sold in Hong Kong is said to be pirated material from China, where two thirds of the pirate CD plants are said to involve Hong Kong entrepreneurs.

Peking promised six months of intensive raids on bootleg manufacturers and retailers, but subsequent factory closures and fines have proved of cosmetic value only. Industry sources say that China's CD capacity is moving towards 150 million units a year.

China has strongly denied the IFPI's claims. Zhang Yuejiao, a senior trade ministry official, said that special anti-piracy tribunals had been set up in 20 provinces and Customs inspections tightened.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

MANCHESTER UNITY LIFE INSURANCE COLLECTORS SOCIETY
The Annual General Meeting of this Society will be held in The Assembly Rooms, 100, Market Street, Manchester, on Monday 10 June 1996 at 1.00 pm.

AGENDA:
Notice convening the meeting; Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1995; Report of Committee and Management; Balance Sheet and Memorandum; Auditor's Report 1995; Appointment of Auditors; Appointment of Trustees; Re-appointment of Auditors. Any other business which may be brought before the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986 (COMPANIES)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following companies have been placed into liquidation by the court: **MANCHESTER UNITY LIFE INSURANCE COLLECTORS SOCIETY**, a company registered in England, No. 100, Market Street, Manchester, M1 1PQ. Liquidator: M. J. DORRINGTON, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

A & R ARTHUR LIMITED (In Liquidation)
Trading name: Arthur Cammell Ltd. Notice of Liquidation: 1995. Date of Liquidation: 1995. Liquidator: M. J. DORRINGTON, Liquidator.

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PREVIEW

From the latest muscle-flexin' pistol-packing cinematic exploits of Arnold Schwarzenegger...



PREVIEW

... and a stunning assembly of Velázquez's early paintings at the Edinburgh Festival...

THE TIMES ARTS



PREVIEW

... to the intriguing sight of Zoë Wanamaker playing a dog in a new play by A.R. Gurney...



PREVIEW

... and the thrilling tenor of Roberto Alagna at Covent Garden: our critics pick top summer shows

From Carrey to Caro, from Schoenberg to Schonberg: *Times* critics offer a choice selection of coming attractions

The summer shows you shouldn't miss

VISUAL ART

Four years after Francis Bacon's death, the greatest British 20th-century painter is finally to be the subject of a grand survey. But the exhibition takes place in Paris rather than London. Nearly 80 outstanding works will be assembled at the Pompidou Centre by the eminent Bacon champion David Sylvester (June 27-Oct 14). They should make our major galleries realise that London needs a large Bacon retrospective soon.

Giacometti and Velázquez, two of the artists Bacon admired most, are also celebrated this summer. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh will stage Britain's first major overview of Giacometti's work since the Tate survey more than 30 years ago (June 1-Sept 22). Sculptures, paintings and drawings will testify to the uniqueness of his vision, from the disturbing Surrealism of his inter-war period to the frailty of his later elongated figures. Surprises will include Giacometti's youthful work, notably his first painted self-portrait.

Velázquez will be highlighted at the National Gallery of Scotland's major event for the Edinburgh Festival. A complete retrospective of the master's work would be impossible to stage outside Spain, but this show (Aug 8-Oct 20) promises a satisfying exploration of his early years in Seville. The masterpiece is likely to be the National Gallery of Scotland's own marvellous *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs*, but key loans are promised from the Prado, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

The most important exhibition by a living British painter will be the Tate's *Leon Kossoff* retrospective (June 6-Sept 1), mounted in his 70th year. His output shows no sign of faltering, either in quantity or quality, and his energy remains unflagging. The powerful recent paintings of Hawksmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields, situated in the East End neighbourhood where Kossoff grew up, will be placed in the context of 40 years' singleminded achievement: an increasingly impressive exploration of London and its inhabitants.

Some of Britain's outstanding sculptors are being saluted in the most ambitious exhibition ever staged by the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris (June 6-Sept 15). Ranging from Epstein to Damien Hirst, and including Caro, Cragg, Hepworth, Long, Moore and Whiteread, it promises to be a landmark in France's gradual acknowledgement of modern British art. Six monumental works, among them a specially restored sculpture from the 1960s by Paolozzi, will be installed in the nearby Tuileries gardens.

Meanwhile, at the Hayward, the major American sculptor Claes Oldenburg receives a salute (June 6-Aug 18). More than 150 sculptures, drawings, photographs and films will fill the interior with the witty, alarming and fantastical images produced by a pioneer of American Pop Art — from the "soft" sculptures he produced in the 1960s to the titanic public monuments produced in collaboration with his wife, the writer and art historian Coosje van Bruggen. It should be a provocative and exhilarating spectacle.

RICHARD CORK



An Old Woman Cooking Eggs will be among the Velázquez paintings shown at the National Gallery of Scotland during the Edinburgh Festival

DANCE

The Brighton Festival has one of the hottest dance events of the spring.

Trisha Brown, one of America's foremost choreographers, brings her latest work, *MO*, set to Bach's *Musical Offering*, to Brighton (May 17, 18), along with the gorgeous postmodern classic *Set and Reset*, which features a score by Laurie Anderson and multimedia designs by the artist Robert Rauschenberg. A week later the company arrives at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The Festival Hall, meanwhile, is turning its stage over to contemporary dance for the first time. The honour of filling the vast auditorium goes to the Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas with their large-scale work based on Mozart concert arias, divertissements and piano pieces. Only one British performance, unfortunately — on July 3.

Birmingham Royal Ballet comes to Covent Garden on May 21 with a programme of Britley ballets: *Carmina Burana*, *Far from the Mad-dling Crowd* and *Still Life at the Penguin Café* — a real audience favourite. English National Ballet, meanwhile, is touring Christopher Dean's new work — the skater's first attempt at choreographing without blades. It arrives at the Festival Hall on June 17.

Rambert Dance Company, Britain's oldest established dance company, celebrates its 70th anniversary with a season at the Coliseum (July 9-13) that features Robert Cohan's intensely beautiful *Stabat Mater*, Christopher Bruce's Rolling Stones ballet *Rooster*, and a rare revival of Antony Tudor's *Dark Elegies* from 1937, a seminal work of British ballet. And thanks to Granada's £75,000 sponsorship, all the tickets will be under £20. Meanwhile, the Royal Ballet opens its summer season at Covent Garden on July 17 with Sylvie Guillem in *Manon*. *Swan Lake* and Twyla Tharp's *Mr Worldly Wise* also put in an appearance.

Again the dance programme at the Edinburgh Festival is strong. Mark Morris presents the premiere of his new Monteverdi work: *Netherlands Dance Theatre* showcases the choreography of Jiri Kylián and the Martha Graham Dance Company brings a programme that focuses on her early work, from the Twenties, Thirties and Forties, including *Lamentation* and *Appalachian Spring*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DEBRA CRAINE

The Royal Opera's energy this summer is devoted to its six-week Verdi Festival, to be launched on June 11 with Luc Bondy's production of *Don Carlos*, so extravagantly admired when seen in Paris earlier this year. Karita Mattila, Roberto Alagna, José Van Dam and Thomas Hampson head the cast, Bernard Haitink conducts, and it is already the hottest ticket in town.

The other new production is *Giovanna d'Arco* (June 24),

starring June Anderson, conducted by Daniele Gatti and directed by Philip Prowse. There are revivals of *Traviata* (July 8) with Alagna and his new wife Angela Gheorghiu (also live on the Big Screen on July 15 and 18), and the controversial *Nabucco* (June 13), plus concert performances of *Alcina* (July 9) and *Il corsaro* (June 18).

English National Opera has two new productions before the season ends: David Leveaux's *Salome* (May 25),

and Nikolaus Lehnhoff's staging of *The Prince of Homburg* (June 22). Henze's setting of the Kleist play.

Outside London, the Welsh National Opera premieres Peter Maxwell Davies's new opera, *The Doctor of Myddfai* (July 10 in Llandudno), to a libretto by David Pountney, who also directs this intriguing folk-tale allegory, and Opera Nova opens Caroline Gawn's new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* in Manchester on May 20.

Otherwise it's festival time. Highlights at Glyndebourne include William Christie conducting Peter Sellars's production of Handel's *Theodora* (May 17), with Dawn Upshaw and the amazing US counter-tenor David Daniels making debuts; Graham Vick staging *Lulu* (July 15); and — absolutely unmissable — Gennady Rozhdestvensky conducting Yevgeny Onegin with Elena Prokina (June 7).

Garsington (mid-June) fields an attractive programme of *Albert Herring*, Rossini's *Il turco in Italia* and *Idomeneo*. The excellent Opera Theatre Company of Dublin dominates the Covent Garden Festival with Handel's *Amadigi* at St Clement Danes (May 29), then at Buxton), and a Mozart double-bill (Freemasons Hall, May 30). Adventurous spirits will seek out the premiere of John Woolrich's *In the House of Crossed Desires*, to a libretto by Marina Warner, which launches the Cheltenham Festival on July 6.

And then there's Edinburgh. Note James MacMillan's new opera, *Ines de Castro* (August 23), and Robert Wilson's production from Houston of the Virgil Thomson-Gertrude Stein *Four Saints in Three Acts* (August 29). Spoilt for choice?

RODNEY MILNES

If spring is here, can Arnold Schwarzenegger be far behind? Actually, his new blockbuster, *Eraser*, is out in August. This time he's flesh and blood, a federal marshal wrongly suspected of rubbing out people. Cinema trailers have a horrible habit of making even good films look bad, so we will have to see if the aggressively soulless sampler for *Eraser* is a fair omen.

Other Hollywood big guns are fired during the summer. Usually Britain has to wait an age before Disney's latest cartoon plays here, but *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* will arrive on July 19, a month after its American debut. To whet the appetite a Hunchback train is touring the country from May 25, offering a virtual-reality trip to Quasimodo's Paris. The young crowd may also be tickled by

THEATRE

Expect two events to hog the hype this summer. One will be Boublil and Schönberg's musical reworking of a tale that has already spawned two movies. Will Martin Gurney (from July 10, Prince Edward) bring its creators as much success as *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*? Will the admirable but relatively obscure Iain Glen make as formidable a returning warrior as Gérard Depardieu and Richard Gere, stars of *The Return of Martin Guerre* and *Sommersby* respectively?

The other, rather more important happening is the 50th Edinburgh Festival. This year it includes John McGrath's adaptation of Lindsay's 16th-century masterpiece, *A Satire of the Four Estates*, Peter Stein's production of *Uncle*

Vanya, and the variations on *Hamlet* that Robert Lepage has titled *Elsinore*.

Down in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company is busily importing last year's Stratford offerings for what is, sadly, its last summer season at the Barbican. The plums are Katie Mitchell's spare revival of Euripides's *Phoenician Women* (Rt, from June 26) and Steven Pimlott's over-the-top *Richard III* (June 27). The National presents an oddity: a small-scale *War and Peace* (Cottesloe, June 25), and brings Vanessa Redgrave, Eileen Atkins and Paul Scofield to the Lyttelton in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* on July 11. Plans for the West End are

CLASSICAL MUSIC

less complete, though Donald Sinden could soon be seen there in a new thriller by N.J. Crisp, *That Good Night*, and Zoë Wanamaker will certainly be at the Apollo on May 20 in a most peculiar role. She plays a dog that comes between husband and wife in Sylvia, by the American dramatist, A.R. Gurney Jr. I'll also be eager to discover how Alan Bennett's study of sexual mores, *Habemus Corpus*, responds to Sam Mendes's directorial touch at the Donmar on June 5.

Out of town, the Theatre Royal, York, stages its city's Mystery Plays on June 6 in non-sectist, God-as-Goddess style. And Birmingham Rep assays a non-musical *Gentle-*

Men Prefer Blondes (May 21).

The RSC's Stratford season offers not only *Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and a *Troilus and Cressida* with Joseph Flennes and the brilliant Victoria Hamilton as the star-battered lovers. We also get Peter Whelan's *Herbal Bed* and Richard Nelson's *The General from America*, new plays about Shakespeare's daughter Susannah and the traitor Benedict Arnold respectively. And down in Chichester, there's even more flurry: Peter Ustinov in his own *Beethoven's Ninth*, Derek Jacobi in *Uncle Vanya*, Dawn French in Priestley's *When We Are Married*, Harriet Walter as *Hedda Gabler*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DEBRA CRAINE

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CINEMA

The Cable Guy, the new movie from ace face-puller Jim Carrey, due on July 12, or *Independence Day*, an epic sci-fi thriller about an attack by old-fashioned aliens (Aug 9). There is also *Mission: Impossible*, a movie edition of the TV spy romp of the late 1960s, directed by Brian De Palma, and starring Tom Cruise (July 5). But will there be anything this summer that demands the use of a brain? Yes. The Coen brothers' *Fargo*, out this month, is rewarding: with this drily comic treatment of a real-life crime in 1980s Minneapolis the slick masters of pastiche have finally made a film with feeling. Away from America, Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*, one of Britain's Cannes

entries, draws out comedy, pathos and satire from a woman's quest to find her natural mother. This is due on May 24. Connoisseurs should take pleasure in *Le Confessionnal* (June 7), the first cinema venture of theatrical wizard Robert Lepage, which spins a fictional web around Alfred Hitchcock's visit to Quebec to shoot *I Confess*. And any admirer of Antonioni will be anxious to see *Beyond the Clouds* (July 12), the first feature the Italian veteran has completed in 14 years. This quartet of stories about love and desire is something of a folly, but you remain transfixed by Antonioni's sharp visual eye. And at end of August comes Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*: small-scale, lyrical and young at heart.

GEOFF BROWN

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POP

All quiet on the Bryan front: the amazingly innocuous Mr Adams just goes on selling albums



MUSIC

Steven Isserlis and other top virtuosos present a celebration of the cello in Manchester

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Fenella Fielding goes solo in Hampstead, but who needs a show about an obscure Polish poet?



TOMORROW

How does Felicity Kendal measure up in the new Feydeau staging? Benedict Nightingale gives his verdict

CONCERTS
Bowing to loud applause

EDUCATION, charity, exchange of ideas, technical development: these are all good reasons why some of the world's most distinguished cellists regularly converge on the Royal Northern College of Music. Or so they say.

But the real reason is surely the opportunity to play to the most committed, attentive and appreciative of audiences. And it is not just the idols who are warmly received. In the same concert as Steven Isserlis was noisily applauded for a thoughtful and characteristically picturesque performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto, Natalia Gutman was no less enthusiastically acclaimed for an interpretation of Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto which had such gritty integrity that any other audience might have been awed into pliancy or bewildered into silence.

The spectacular partnership between Gutman and a similarly inspired Yan Pascal Tortelier with the BBC Phil-

Manchester Cello Festival RNCM

harmonic was one of the factors that released the applause on this occasion.

Another ambition of the director of the festival, Ralph Kirschbaum, is to extend the repertoire. Although neither of the two works he commissioned for the BBC Philharmonic Concert — Dmitri Shostakovich's Concerto, Op 74, and Alexander Goehr's *Uninterrupted Movement* — is likely to become a regular feature, both are interesting: the latter for the composer's response to the natural challenge he set himself.

A solo cello, a quartet of cellos, and an unspecified number of other cellos in two parts combine in *Uninterrupted Movement* to present quite extraordinary problems of balance. Remarkably, on its first performance — with Kirschbaum and ten BBC Philharmonic cellos — it failed only in that the solo cello was neither integrated with the others nor set in high profile against them.

There were no problems of balance in the lunchtime recital given by Thomas and Patrick Demenga, the cello's answer to Katia and Marielle Labèque. Sally Beamish's *Duel*, another festival commission, ostensibly sets them in conflict but, entertainingly, it's more a fraternal exchange of repartee than internecine strife. As for Elliott Carter's *Segment* — being given its British premiere — this perfectly proportioned construction is surely a piece that has come to stay.

GERALD LARNER

Is Bryan Adams the mild man of rock? Not in the studio, Alan Jackson reports

Ace face in the crowd

Militantly normal, determinedly anonymous, Bryan Adams is genuinely satisfied that most of us could pass him by without ever suspecting he is a rock star. Now 36 years old, and a recording artist for almost half his life, he has outsold most of his more profile-conscious peers — in 1991, for example, his *(Everything I Do) I Do It For You* topped the charts here for 16 weeks. Even then, he could have walked up and down the average high street without ever being asked to sign an autograph. "I could fall out of the sky on to most people and still they wouldn't recognise me," he insists.

The instinct is to disbelieve any performer who professes so to love being overlooked when out of the spotlight, but the way in which Adams has run his career to date would appear to substantiate the claim. For example, he has avoided any instinct to use his good looks ("This is a face only a mother could love") for commercial advantage, choosing not to appear in close-up — if at all — on his record sleeves. "I don't want that kind of commercial success," says the Ontario-born singer, writer and guitarist, for some years resident in London. "It suits me fine that the public is familiar with my name and my music, but not with how I look."

Until recently, he has been faceless even within the corridors of A&M, his record company for almost two decades. "I signed with them in 1978, so long ago that I've outlived almost everyone there, including the chairman — only Sting predates me," he says. "And somehow, I never really developed a relationship with anybody there. They never seemed to be particularly interested in me or what I was doing. Every now and then I'd deliver a finished piece of work and it would be a question of, 'Oh, right. We've got the new Adams album'. There seemed to be no concerted marketing or press effort."

Gradually, though, his British residency has enabled those now in place at his label to get to know him — trips to watch a Chelsea home game, the occasional dinner, that sort of thing. "Even so, creatively they've still had no influence whatsoever," he says bluntly, when asked if this thaw has affected the make-up of *18 Tilt I Die*, his first new studio album for four years.

The near-defensive reply hints at another facet to the otherwise resolutely low-key image that he prefers to project. There is a steely professionalism, even an arrogance, about him which surfaces only when his creative judgment is called into question. In addition to being a fine and distinctive pop-rock singer, Adams has a particular facility for writing melodic, anthemic ballads, and it seemed only a matter of time before he was asked to write and produce for other artists. One industry giant to spot this potential was Clive Davis, president of Arista, who drafted him in to handle a track for Carly Simon's 1987 comeback album, *Coming Around Again*. Simon says the experience represented a creative low-point for her — the two men's insistence that she perform the song the way they wanted, rather than following her own instincts, undermined her confidence at a time when she felt vulnerable.

"Listen," Adams interrupts at the mention of Simon's name, "and this is not off the record, OK? She went to the press afterwards saying that working with me was worse than watching her former husband [James Taylor] come off heroin — I've got a clipping of it. No, you haven't touched a nerve at all — in



Put a face to the fame: "I could fall out of the sky on to most people and still they wouldn't recognise me"

fact, I was quite flattered by that. And it was quite a good experience technologically, trying to complete a track she never even finished singing before she stormed out of the studio. It wasn't a nightmare, and I thought she was really nice. It's just that there seemed to be a lot going on for her at the time and I bore the brunt, because I didn't know how to handle her."

It proves not the best time to ask about his experience the previous year of producing a Grammy-winning Tina Turner track, *Back Where You Started*. "You'd have to ask Tina what she thought," he says, then adds, rather more tellingly: "For me, the end

result was always very satisfying. But I gave up producing other artists after the experience with Tina. I don't want to deal with that stuff any more."

"My whole ethic when in the studio is to make it as good as it can possibly be. With a lot of artists, though, it's, 'Hey, I just sang it, OK? Now I'm going shopping'. And I just don't want to work with people like that."

Adams is an infrequent interviewee, and this is his first encounter with the media to discuss his new album. Perhaps his original insistence that we talk at the mixing desk of this west London recording studio (and hence with an audience of engineers and

record company personnel) was to cover an initial unease. Certainly, after suggesting that we move to a quieter room, he relaxes considerably, and becomes engaging company. He is, he insists, happier with *18 Tilt I Die* than with any of its predecessors, is looking forward to the experience of touring this summer, hopes to record shortly with Brian Setzer, formerly of the Stray Cats. When a studio hand arrives with his order of baked potato and beans, however, Adams's concentration collapses. An ordinary man indeed.

■ A single, *The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me Is You*, is released by A&M on May 20. *18 Tilt I Die* is released on June 4

Motley assembly from Moldavia

IT WAS only a matter of time before the Moldavian National Opera visited this country, and with its debut here on Sunday it joined the long list of former Eastern bloc companies and orchestras trawling for hard currency.

The company was formed almost 40 years ago and it now occupies a monolithic theatre in the Moldavian capital, Kishinev. This touring *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* reveal standards as one would expect: exciting voices mixed with the kind that excite only ear, nose and throat specialists, and wooden drama sometimes rescued by individual performances.

Whatever its weaknesses, the company performs a useful service at home — and it will do so too in many towns on this tour that are customarily deprived of full-scale opera. But it was not shown to advantage by opening in Nottingham in a Royal Concert Hall that allowed only a semi-staging: most of the performances will have full scenery.

Cav did not begin well. Alexandru Samoilă, a conductor with good theatrical instincts, presided over out-of-tune playing, and the Turiddu (Nicolaie Busuinoac) sang with a tenor like worn sandpaper. Eleonora Constantinov had deployed the props and chorus

OPERA

Cavalleria rusticana / *Pagliacci*
Royal Centre, Nottingham

in dull, symmetrical formations. But singing talent emerged: Natalia Cibotaru was a powerful Santuzza with a Slavonic glint to her soprano, and Liliana Lavric's flirtatious Lola matched real acting with an exciting voice.

The ladies' voices were free of the wobble one expected, and in *Pag Oana* Cobzev was a striking Nedda. Igor Macarenco's tenor was threadbare, but as Cario he poured feeling into *Vesti la giubba*. Vladimir Dragos's Tonio sang a powerful Prologue, helped by a stronger director, Eugen Platon. The full-throated chorus has its moments. This is a real ensemble company, and singers are lined up to alternate in roles: finding an even cast may be like Moldavian roulette, but this double bill ought to appeal to connoisseurs of old-fashioned operatic values.

JOHN ALLISON

Hit and miss

Miss Julie
Lyric, W6

THE recent popularity of Strindberg's *Miss Julie* is a remarkable phenomenon. When Julia Hollander decided on Margareta Hallin's musical setting of the play two years ago to launch her new company, Operate, she could not have known that the British premiere would come in the wake of no fewer than three versions of the work.

Hollander's productions at the ENO and elsewhere have suggested a highly promising talent. Operate is a company that has a great deal to offer. Whether the decision to launch it with *Miss Julie* was a wise one is more questionable. Strindberg's heady fin-de-siècle cocktail of sexual and class tensions achieves its explosive effect by being pared to the bone. Hallin's opera takes over lines intact from the play, in Michael Robinson's translation, but it is difficult to see what any musical setting could add.

Her astringent, ascetic score (played excellently by a string quartet under Philip

Headlam) accurately mirrors the dense polyphony of the play. Attempting to replicate the conversational mode of the original, however, it denies itself the possibility of heightening the drama: there are no soaring melodic lines and few memorable moments.

Hollander's production, designed with a strong feel for the milieu by Dody Nash, and lit skilfully by Paul Russell, succeeds in capturing many of the nuances of the text. Richard and Halton, wonderfully secure of tone, projects a formidable character as the socially ambitious valet Jean, while Janet Mooney's Miss Julie oscillates tellingly between aristocratic arrogance and deep-seated psychological insecurity. The production runs until May 18.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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FRINGE THEATRE: Wheels fall off star vehicle; mad mother is murder

Polish dull under the veneer

Fenella Fielding is performing a one-woman play. Still looking like a Siamese cat, she is acting the part of Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska. Maria (at the New End, NW3) is a monologue recalling the life of the poet and dramatist who scandalised and satirised Polish society. Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska bridged the gap between Neo-Romanticism and Futurism, feared authoritarianism, advocated love, and died in Manchester in 1945. Here we see the writer talking us through her history from hospital, where she finally gives up the ghost.

Sadly, this piece is a none too successful star vehicle. Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska is rather obscure to celebrate in this country. This imagined autobiographical address, originally written in Polish by Anna Maria Grabania, scarcely discusses the literary works. Maria paints a portrait of the cultured glitziest of Cracow, but then basically runs through her various marriages and affairs. She consequently seems a shallow character.

Fielding does declaim verses occasionally. Some are striking, notably a light yet telling poem defining an ideal soulmate (successfully translated by Barbara Pletanek and Tony Howard). But the extracts are unimpressive. Fielding, moving into chameuse mode, goes rhythmically awry and struggles to remember so long a soliloquy. She has wryness and relish but, frankly, more mannerisms than emotions in this portrayal.



Fenella Fielding: "More mannerisms than emotions" in one-woman show

At the Hen and Chickens in Islington, Matthew Campings's new play *Sweetest Gift* centres on a young man, Colin, torn between his nearest and dearest. These are his girlfriend Sandra; Jenny, the friend with whom he moves in and begins a gay relationship; and his mother Pat. With a history of mental illness, Pat now lives in her own flat but is hardly self-

sufficient. She is fiercely protected by Colin, but drives him round the twist with her impossible, possessive behaviour.

Campings portrays the stresses surrounding care in the community and coming out as a homosexual. A psycho killer scenario emerges on top of this. Colin reacts violently to both clutchy relationships and to being chucked. He begins with hitting Sandra. Subsequently, as bits of the story fall into place within a flashback framework, we gather there has been a crazed attack with a baseball bat, and, finally, that Colin has done violence to himself in prison.

The main problem with Campings's production is awkward acting. Daniel McKenna isn't bad as Colin. His shortcoming is that he does not emanate physical explosiveness. Georgina Burns is having difficulty getting a grip on Sandra, playing the comedy at the expense of her character's angry confusion.

Pat, at once mad and manipulative, could have dramatic potential, but this play is not quite fully formed. The baseball bat is clumsily introduced. The plot flops in an odd dream sequence and a lone snatch of courtroom evidence late in the day. More realistic detailing in these people's conversations, and, indeed, their home furnishings (Pat currently kips on a blue cube) might smooth over the bumps.

KATE BASSETT

"Bring forth thou this fiend of Scotland..."

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£18,500

Based in the heart of Hampstead, the finance director of a major Plc needs a right hand man to provide secretarial and general administrative support. Must be numerate, PC literate have superb communication skills. Call Sarah Turnbull.

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Accurate typing skills essential, shorthand an advantage. Should possess excellent working knowledge of Microsoft applications.

If you have the necessary skills and a sense of humour please apply in writing to:

Petra Littlewood, BBVS,
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£28,000 (flexible) + more subsidy + bonus

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Energy, enthusiasm, professionalism, and a knowledge of the broadcasting industry will give you all the tools you need to tackle this heavyweight role for high profile MD. Patient and organisational skills will see you totally managing a hectic day whilst being the 'face' of the office. Along with a sec background you must have S/H.

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The Chief Executive of a busy Professional Institution requires a highly organised PA with an eye for detail. The successful candidate will be flexible, have excellent communication skills and be highly literate and well spoken. Excellent computer skills are essential, and knowledge of Microsoft Office would be an advantage.

Starting Salary c.£17,000, depending upon experience, plus benefits.

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Two vacancies, one based in Hammersmith the other centrally in Hammersmith but relocating to EC2. If you have proven PA skills (no shorthand), are enthusiastic, forward thinking and with a good sense of humour, please call either Mithun or Wendy on 0171 420 8004.

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The restored Redbournbury Watermill near St Albans, an early Victorian example

Campaign to save the rolling stones

If you have ever wanted to restore an old windmill then there has never been a better time — for Britain's historic wind and watermills are fast disappearing through neglect, claims the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

"We estimate that one mill a week is lost through development, demolition or house conversion," says Lucy Worsley, administrator of the society's Wind and Watermill Section.

This Sunday the society is holding its sixteenth National Mills Day when more than 200 windmills and watermills throughout Britain will be open to the public.

During the Industrial Revolution mills ground the ingredients of gunpowder, provided the power to drive giant forge hammers, turned weaving machines and crushed minerals for dyes.

Many old mills have been patiently restored by dedicated volunteers, inspired by the sight of a groaning, shuddering windmill in action or a thundering watermill. Miss Worsley says: "Our biggest problem at the moment is that although we have an amazing dedicated membership, they are ageing rapidly and we need new blood."

This weekend some mills are holding special events such as bread-making, spinning, pottery-making, shire horse shows, steam engine rallies, craft exhibitions and Morris dancing.

One mill that has been carefully restored as a working mill and a home is Redbournbury Watermill, on the A5183 St Albans to Redbourn Road in Hertfordshire, a rare example of an early Victorian watermill.

A mill was first recorded on the site in the Domesday Book of 1086 and destroyed by a fire 200 years later. Parts of the present mill date from the 16th century, although the

Ronald Gribble
on the fight
to preserve
our decaying
heritage

wooden wheel and mechanism was replaced with iron machinery in 1790.

It was bought by Julian James and his wife, Mandy, from the Crown Commissioners in 1987 after being empty for several years. They could not move into the millhouse straight away because it had dry rot, wet rot, rising damp, a leaking



Grinding stones on show

roof and a flooded cellar, so they lived in a caravan on site while repairs were carried out. Ironically, part of the mill and house were damaged by a second fire, started by vandals, only three days after they had exchanged contracts and handed over more than £150,000.

Undeterred and with the help of their children, Justin, 24, and Tessa, 21, a band of experts, volunteers and a grant from English Heritage, the Jameses have spent the past nine years restoring the

mill to its former glory. Mr James, 53, personnel director of a construction company, says: "The Crown Commissioners accepted our bid because we promised to restore the mill to working order. They turned down higher bids from other parties who wanted to turn it into a hotel or a restaurant."

"We intend to run the mill as a museum and study centre where schoolchildren can see flour being milled for local bakeries. We are not keepers of the past, but custodians of the future."

In the 1870s a steam engine was used to power Redbournbury mill, but it was scrapped for the war effort in 1915. Justin James is now working on restoring a rusty 4½-ton 1928 Crossley diesel engine, rescued from a demolished mill in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, to drive the mill because the drought-hit River Ver is not high enough to turn the wheel.

On Sunday he will put away his wire brush for a day and show visitors around the mill, while Morris men dance on the green outside and beekeepers explain the craft of making honey.

Other mills that will be grinding on Sunday include King's Mill, Shipley, West Sussex, once owned by the poet Hilary Belloc; the seven-storey Maud Foster Windmill, in Boston, Lincolnshire, which is the tallest working mill in Britain; and Mapledurham Watermill, near Reading, Berkshire, the last working watermill on the Thames and run by the country's only female miller.

There will also be a demonstration of windmill model-making at Wimbledon Windmill, the birthplace of the Scouting movement, at Wimbledon in southwest London.

● To find out the location and opening times of a mill near you this Sunday, phone Lucy Worsley on 0171-377 1644.

How to feather your nest

People are
moving less and
decorating
more.

Rachel Kelly
on a new guide

We are still stubbornly refusing to move. Hopes of a strong recovery in the housing market in March suffered a setback last week when figures showed a fall in sales for the second month in a row.

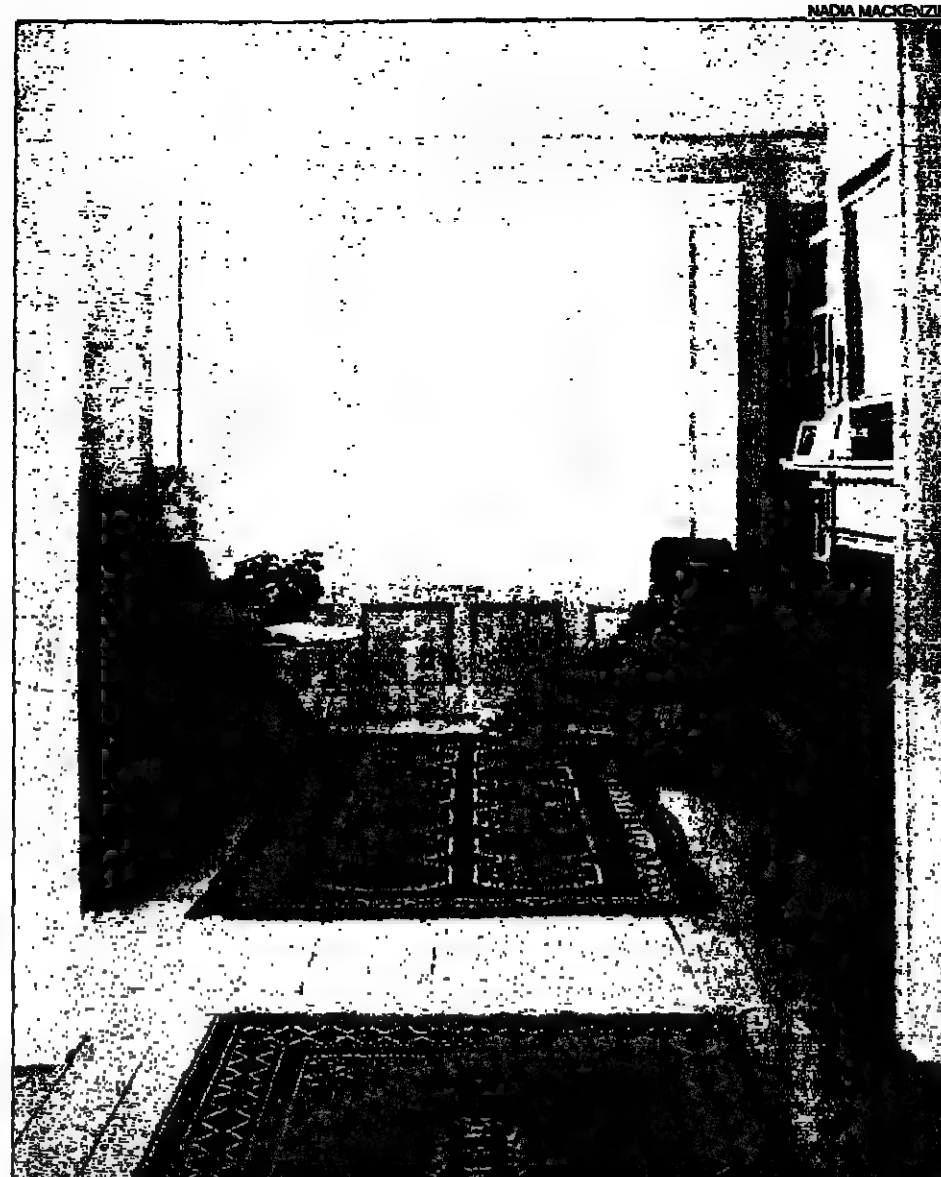
Data compiled by the Inland Revenue showed that 89,000 properties changed hands last month on a seasonally-adjusted basis, down from 91,000 in February and 97,000 in January. There will probably be a tally of around one million moves by the end of the year.

It may seem a lot, but this compares with sales of nearer two million at the height of the boom. Most of us are moving less often — every seven instead of every five years, according to the Central Statistical Office. In the words of John Wrigglesworth, former housing market analyst at UBS and now at the Bradford and Bingley, we are nesting, not investing.

Decorating is next to nesting. Many of our homing desires are now finding their outlet at DIY shops rather than estate agents. And one of the most famous names in decorating is taking advantage of the trend to do up your bricks and mortar rather than buy new ones.

Jocasta Innes first published her thoughts on cheap decorating in the early 1970s, with *The Pauper's Homecoming*. Then, in the early 1980s, came *Paint Magic* and *Paintability*, which widened the notions of what you could achieve with paint, still the cheapest means to a speedy transformation.

Now comes *The Thrifty Decorator*. It usefully updates many of her ideas. As Ms Innes herself admits, her earli-



Jocasta Innes transformed this double drawing-room with a greyish wash on the floorboards and warm saffron yellow walls for a light and airy Scandinavian feel

er books now appear somewhat hippy and old-fashioned. As families stay put instead of trading up, space is at even more of a premium. And the bargains take more finding now that *The Antiques Roadshow* has made everyone an expert on the contents of their attics. As Ms Innes writes: "The odds are now stacked higher, in some respects, for a new generation of hard-up homeowners."

But some things are easier. The past 20 years have seen an explosion in DIY, with a consequent expansion in tools, materials and services. It is

probably easier now to repair and restore than in the days when a request for "transparent oil glaze" at your local hardware store was greeted with a blank look. Today even modest builders' merchants are likely to sell stencils and centrifugal paint mixers.

The book is essentially practical, with plenty of do's and don'ts and black and white "how to" sketches. The text flows through tips for walls, floors, windows, furniture and storage, chair covers and cushions, plus an enjoyable section showing some of Ms Innes's own projects. Of course some

of the practical advice hasn't changed. Ms Innes can scarcely improve on her earlier descriptions of how to re-cane a chair, cut and stitch a loose cover, or run up curtains.

The thrifty begin by decorating their kitchens. Eating in saves money. Ms Innes is a fan of the "open-faced" approach to storage. "I like to see the things I use all the time," she says. Trawling architectural salvage sheds, markets, boot sales and second-hand stores can all yield furniture for unfitted kitchens, which are cheaper and can be more efficient. "Forget the stream-

lined frontage of matching units featured in the glossies," she says. "They are not as space-saving as they purport to be, unless custom-made and fiendishly expensive."

She admits that her approach may mean a stylistic hotchpotch but a strong colour on the walls and maybe a chequered paint floor will help to bind the room together.

The next essentials are bedding and curtains. Sofas and easy chairs can be postponed until funds allow. The book suggests how to make floor cushions, and reminds the reader that wicker sofas and chairs are relatively inexpensive. Fold-away cream canvas directors' chairs can provide extra seating, doubling up as garden or dining chairs.

Minimalism has made bare boards chic. Old rugs add warmth: the really dilapidated ones can be cut down to make floor cushions or used to cover small chairs.

Picture? "Consider framing scraps of interesting or beautiful old fabric, lace, embroideries and old prints, and collect old frames to refurbish. Even photocopies look impressive in decorative frames."

The book includes a list of essential tools, some fairly predictable: the collapsible aluminium stepladder, the power drill, hammer and screwdriver. But Ms Innes also highlights the need for a staple gun, "the stylist's friend", which is essential for fabric-covered walls and improvised draperies, and a sewing machine. Newer models, as she rightly points out, rarely justify the expense, second-hand models are fine. "I have never yet come across a 20th-century machine that produces the tiny, exquisitely even, plain stitching one finds on the turn-of-the-century cotton nighties," she writes. Of course she is not suggesting buying a collector's 19th-century machine, but making the point that new doesn't always mean better, I agree.

● The Thrifty Decorator is published by Coronet Octopus, price £9.99 (0171-840 0861). The Pauper's Homecoming is out of print. A second edition of Paint Magic called New Paint Magic is in bookshops.

The key of the door is blue

A BLUE front door may help to sell your home, according to a report from the Alliance and Leicester Building Society. Hot on the heels of Pepsi's decision to launch a blue can, the report found that 38 per cent of respondents were attracted by a blue front door or interior.

Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, says it is common for blue to score highly in surveys. "It is both cheerful and dignified, with a high status in our culture," he says. "We speak of honest folk as being 'true blue', and reputable companies as having a 'blue-chip' pedigree."

Other popular colours were green and red — attracting 18 per cent and 14 per cent of respondents respectively — whereas brown, black and purple were likely to turn buyers away.

Red is popular because it is exciting, vigorous and associated with people who are outgoing, impulsive and optimistic. Dr Lewis says. Brown is disliked by one house-hunter in seven and by more women than men. "Brown is considered a practical, down-to-earth colour associated with a commonsense outlook but little imagination."

Stapleford sold

PETER DE SAVARY, the entrepreneur, has bought Stapleford Park in Leicestershire for £5 million, and plans to open it in the autumn as a club. The former America's Cup yachtman will spend a further £2 million upgrading it.

Last week Mr de Savary announced plans to expand his Carnegie Club, based at Skibo Castle in the Scottish Highlands, to sites in the Caribbean, America and the Alps. The clubs are named after the Scots philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, once the world's richest man, who transformed Skibo into his "heaven on earth" at the turn of the century.

Stapleford is a Grade I listed building, set in 400 acres of parkland near Melton Mowbray, and is currently trading as a luxury hotel. An extra ten bedrooms will be built, bringing the total to 52, together with a golf course and swimming pool.

RACHEL KELLY

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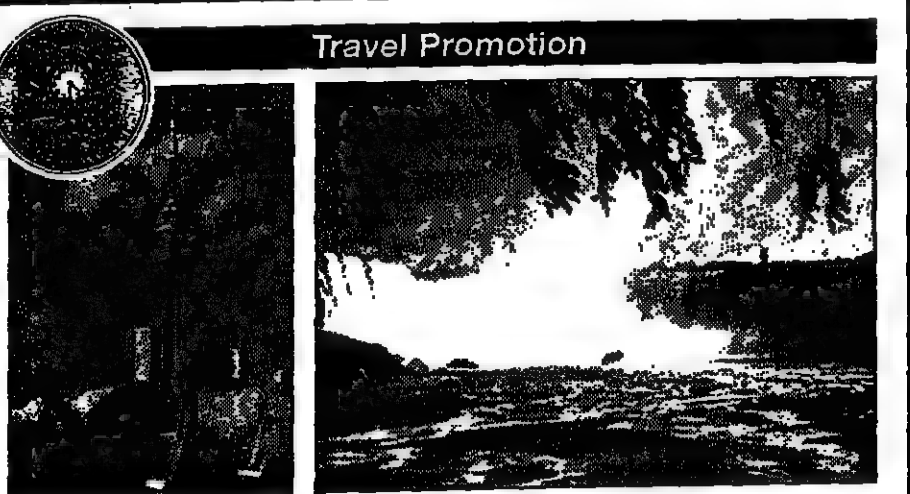
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High Baroque advertises Manton's classic strength

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A HORSE whose modest breeding produced a Derby entry duly routed a field of Epsom candidates in the Chester Vase yesterday — and underlined Peter Chapple-Hyam's outstanding chance of winning the world's most famous flat race next month.

High Baroque is considered inferior to the likes of Nash House, Astor Place and Heron Island at Manton but he came from last to first inside the final quarter mile of the Derby trial to beat five rivals with an entry for the Epsom classic.

The length and a quarter victory over St Mawes came half an hour after Legal Right, another Chapple-Hyam-trained Derby entrant, had won the Grosvenor Maiden Stakes and the two results offer the Manton handler an invaluable guide as he prepares to unleash his best Derby hopes.

Nash House, backed down to 5-4 on the strength of a Newbury maiden victory last month, goes for the Dante Stakes at York next Wednesday, while Astor Place will take on the Henry Cecil-trained Dushyant in the Michael Seely Glasgow Stakes the following day. Heron Island is due to line up for the Lingfield Derby Trial on Saturday.

As bookmakers shuffled their ante-post odds, perhaps the most enticing bet is the 3-1 offered by Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes against Peter Chapple-Hyam winning the Epsom classic.

According to Robert Sangster, who has more than a passing interest in the respective merits of the Manton inmates, the batting order reads: 1. Nash House (the only horse Sangster does not own



High Baroque holds St Mawes in the Chester Vase. Photograph: Hugh Routhledge

or have a share in); 2. Astor Place; 3. Heron Island; 4. High Baroque; 5. Legal Right. However, he added an important caveat yesterday: "Astor Place worked with Nash House this morning and, if anything, worked a little bit the better of the pair." Within minutes of those remarks the 33-1 Coral had been offering was quickly trimmed to 20-1. The form of Astor Place's victory in a Newmarket maiden last autumn now looks outstanding. Legal Right, yesterday's winner, was second, followed by Santillana, the winner of the Thresher Classic Trial, while fourth-placed Dombey has achieved a run-away success at Kempton.

Chapple-Hyam has been a fan of the Sadler's Wells colt ever since he came into the yard but he admitted Nash House probably has "the extra sparkle" — although there is a question mark over his ability to get a mile and a half. "He is bred on the same lines as Spectrum and is not guaranteed to get a mile and a half, but the way he is at home I am hopeful he will get the trip."

St Mawes appeared ill at ease going around the Roodey and John Dunlop may run the Lord Swaythling-owned colt in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood. "He's a horse that needs the experience. He is still learning. We are still hoping he is worth

running in the Derby and we might go to Goodwood to teach him something." Sangster always enjoys coming to Chester but he confirmed one of the reasons why he is having several runners at this meeting is the excellent ground — in stark contrast to that on offer at Newmarket. "Nick Lees [jockey of the course at Newmarket] should come here and see the ground. It is superb. I saw what Angus Gold said about the false ground at Newmarket and I agree completely. We messed a lot of horses up in the Craven meeting so I decided to have 16 runners in the North and nothing at Newmarket."

Blaze Away looks warm order in Chester Cup

CHESTER
CHANNEL 4

2.40: Despite being poorly drawn, Vasari should take all the beating. He was caught inside the final 100 yards over Sandown's stiff five furlongs on his debut after showing plenty of pace. This sharp five furlongs is ideal and given his early speed, Mick Channon's well-regarded colt should be able to overcome a wide draw. None of the others with racecourse experience looks anything special and two newcomers, Rainbow Rain and the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained Raven Master, are likely to pose the biggest threats.

Nag: OVERRULED
(2.10 Chester)
Next best: Blaze Away
(3.40 Chester)



winning from the front and may not be able to dominate here. Merit improved dramatically when stepped up in trip last autumn and looks handily weighted, but Blaze Away must be the choice at around 10-1. Twice a winner off today's handicap mark last year, Ian Balding's fast ground-loving stayer ran a cracker in the mud-mud Shadriwan at Doncaster. A winner over hurdles at Ascot last week, today's trip and strong pace should be ideal.

3.10: Solar Crystal, winner of the May Hill Stakes last season, before finishing good third in the Prix Marcel Bouscassac, is the clear form choice and Henry Cecil's front-running filly is sure to go close. However, this race has a habit of being won by lightly-raced sorts, including five maidens during 11 years. Smilin N Wishin, third to Air Quest, will have her supporters, along with Alessandra and the unbeaten Shemuzzle.

3.40: Fujiyama Crest, a course winner over two miles last year, is strongly fancied after an encouraging seasonal reappearance at Ripon 11 days ago. Michael Stoute's handicapper has done all his

4.10: Wildwood Flower put up an improved performance on her seasonal reappearance at Newmarket, showing plenty of dash to lead at the furlong marker. She was caught inside the final 100 yards but stayed on resolutely and recorded a decent time. Richard Hammon's filly should be at home around this tight circuit.

The handicapper has taken no chances with the unbeaten Angaar, but Alec Stewart's runner could be open to further improvement now that he steps up to six furlongs. He rates the main danger from the favoured No. 11 stall. Air Wing would appreciate easier ground.

RICHARD EVANS

CHESTER

THUNDERER
2.10 Three Hills
2.40 Vasari
3.10 Solar Crystal
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Micky Bay, 3.40 Fujiyama Crest, 4.10 ANGAAR (nap).

GOING: GOOD
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
2.10 CHESHIRE REGIMENT HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,368: 1m 4f 60y) (13 runners)
188 (9) 62210- PLEASANT SURPRISE 228 (9) (A) M J Atkinson 9-7
182 (10) 02-1 BENTON 10 (9) (J) M J Atkinson 9-7
183 (11) 02-1 BENTON 10 (9) (J) M J Atkinson 9-7
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O'Sullivan's status elevated by keeping bad company



Daily: explosive talent packs galleries

The world snooker championship has turned itself loose and all those who love, follow or have a financial stake in the game are singing loud hosannas to the gods of sport.

Never mind the result, this was Ronnie O'Sullivan's tournament. A row about show-boating, some wonderful snooker, an impossible victory from 5-10 down and, as the clincher, an incident in which he not only punched but bit a press officer: some of us only dream but others act. Well, what more could a tournament, a sport, desire? For this is more than a matter of cheap publicity. This is actually one of the core issues of sport: why we do it, why we watch it, why we come back for more.

A Bad Lad is not just someone who gets into trouble. To qualify, a Bad Lad must bring a very special, gravity-defiant quality to his sport. Vinnie Jones is not a Bad Lad, he is just a thug. George Best was a Bad Lad in the true, the magical, sense of the term.

Mike Gatting was never a Bad Lad, though he has made plenty of headlines for bad

behaviour with rebel tours, political demonstrations, rows with umpires and a diplomatic incident. Ian Botham was a Bad Lad, even though he did not make half as much trouble.

Nick Faldo has known plenty of controversy and has been involved in a number of distasteful incidents, but there is only one Bad Lad in golf. He packs galleries and makes even non-golfers switch on their television, and his name, of course, is John Daly.

The FA Carling Premiership season has been an enthralling duel and the honours of the season have gone to the *Garçon Mauvais*. The prize and the title of footballer of the year went to Eric Cantona, not to such worthy chaps and fine players as Peter Beardsley and Les Ferdinand.

The first and most obvious thing a Bad Lad brings to his sport is a sense of danger. This is what a great actor is supposed to bring to a theatre: Oliver, who had this quality in abundance, always seemed on the brink of running amok through the audience. Where he was concerned, the normal mechanisms of control did not seem to function.

In the same way, O'Sullivan is

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

capable of reeling off four frames in 40 minutes, devastating opponents and audiences with his brilliance. Best, Botham, Cantona, Daly: all possessed or possess this extraordinary explosive kind of ability. It is an aspect of the restless and volatile nature of the genuine Bad Lad and, yes, it is wonderful to watch; and it certainly always looks as if it must be wonderful to possess such a talent and ride in triumph across your chosen sport.

Bad Lads excite more than admiration, however. They also bring out an odd protective

instinct. It seems silly to feel protective about a man called Beely, about a man who bites press officers, about a man who deals out kung fu kicks with such aplomb, but there is a sense in which Bad Lads are victims.

They make enemies, they polarise a sport's followers and create a legion of anti-supporters. They are prone to spectacular failures: O'Sullivan will play an awful safety shot or miss an easy pot when his mind has moved on to other things. All Bad Lads can move in a second from triumph to disaster, the more dreadful for the hopes lost in the process.

The failures pain us, especially as they always make so many other people gloat. Bad Lads also seem to be fined more heavily or banned more readily than others. We want to protect them from their enemies, officials, opponents, the world, themselves.

For we all recognise something of ourselves in a Bad Lad — perhaps those who despise them or fine them do so even more than the rest of us. There is a part of all of us that yearns to live without restraint, to possess

a talent without boundaries and to behave exactly as we see fit, without regard for people or rules or conventions of any kind. How wonderful to have a talent that gives you wings, the courage to fly beyond the net of all those tedious aspects of everyday life. This is the MacCavity Syndrome, named for T.S. Eliot's renowned mystery.

"MacCavity, MacCavity, there's no one like MacCavity."

He's broken every human law. He breaks the law of gravity. It is the MacCavity Syndrome that makes the Bad Lad the most mesmerizing character in sport, the source of endless arguments, passionate hates, wild loves and the most secret self-identification. There is a little of MacCavity in us all.

Perhaps we love the Bad Lads because there is always a payoff. A wild talent set in a wild nature makes for some wild sport — but disaster is always lurking: the sun grows too hot, the wings fall and the ground is always lying in wait. Every one of sport's MacCavities has a second name, and it is Icarus. Why else would we love them.



O'Sullivan: never far from an error

FOR THE RECORD

BALLROOM DANCING

BRIMMINGHAM UK Open championships: UK ten-dance amateur: 1. D Bennett and R. Corder (Sheffield); 2. S. Szym and C. Lakin (London); 3. D. Bennett and C. Lakin (Sheffield); 4. J. Harvey and E. Francis (Barnsley); 5. S. Oliver and A. Zucco (Aldershot); 6. P. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 7. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 8. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 9. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 10. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 11. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 12. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 13. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 14. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 15. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 16. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 17. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 18. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 19. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 20. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 21. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 22. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 23. C. Bennett and E. Parashina (Hull); 24. C. Bennett and E. 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Last chance for the £10,000 game

ALL-ROUNDER

Code:

Name:

BOWLERS

Code:

Name:

BATSMEN

Code:

Name:

WICKETKEEPER

Code:

Name:

HOW TO PLAY

Mark the start of summer by playing Interactive Team Cricket (ITC), the only game officially endorsed by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and which offers a first prize of £10,000. This season, a transfer system has been introduced.

Pick the team that you think will accumulate the most runs and wickets in all first-class matches this season. More than 350 players, all registered with the TCCB, have been listed and allocated a three-digit code - in the following categories: batsmen, all-rounders, wicketkeepers and bowlers. There are two secondary categories: overseas players and rising stars, promising players as selected by The Times.

You must select a team of 11 players.

BATSMEN 1 ALL-ROUNDER 1 WICKETKEEPER 4 BOWLERS 5

Each team must include one overseas player (but no more than one) and one rising star (but no more than one). No player can be picked twice.

The closing date for entries is Thursday May 9, the opening day of the second round of the Britannic Assurance County Championship. The deadline is last post for postal entries and noon for telephone entries on May 9.

Scores will be measured by runs (the aggregate runs scored by all 11 players); wickets (the wickets taken by all 11 players) and wicketkeeping dismissals (catches and stumpings made by your wicketkeeper). Each run will count as one point, each wicket as 20 points. Each wicketkeeper's dismissal as 20 points. The total of runs and wickets will represent the entrant's total team score. Points accumulated by a player in the period before May 9 will count. The entrant with highest aggregate score after the final matches on September 22 will win first prize.

All matches deemed to be first-class by the TCCB (five, four and three-day matches) will count, including Cornhill Test matches, Britannic Assurance county championship, and matches between the counties and touring teams (India, Pakistan and South Africa A) and between the counties and universities. One-day matches do not count.

The transfer system will come into operation on Thursday, May 23 and full details will appear in The Times as well as weekly lists of the players' updated points totals and the leading ITC selectors. Entrants need not make transfers if they do not wish to do so. Transfers will be made by telephone only.

HOW TO ENTER

Entrants registering by telephone must call 0891 405011 using a touch-tone telephone (DTMF). They will be given step-by-step instructions on the recorded message which will ask them to input their full team selection (11 players), wicketkeeper, then bowlers using the three-digit codes. The entrant will be asked to give the personal details (name, address and daytime telephone number). They will then be given a 10-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) which they should write down as they will not receive confirmation of their team or PIN by post.

The telephone lines are open now and will be open 24 hours a day until noon on May 9. Transfers can only be made by telephone. Telephone calls will cost 39p per minute (cheap rate) 45p per minute at other times.

Those who register by post using the panel on this page will receive a letter confirming their team and Personal Identification Number (PIN) and a sports card. Each application (photocopies are not acceptable) must be accompanied by a cheque for £2.50 payable to The Times ITC and sent to: The Times ITC, Attn: House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0NS to arrive by last post on Thursday May 9.

PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE
The winner will receive a first prize of £10,000 cash plus £500 worth of Kent & Curwen cricket clothes and a complete Sky Sports satellite package including daily, free-to-air, installation and six months' free subscription to Sky Sports.

SECOND PRIZE
£500 cash plus the Kent & Curwen cricket clothes and Sky Sports package as above.

THIRD PRIZE
£250 cash plus the Kent & Curwen cricket clothes and Sky Sports package.

FOURTH PRIZE
The Kent & Curwen cricket clothes and Sky Sports package.

FIFTH PRIZE
Kent & Curwen blazer plus Sky Sports package.

MONTHLY PRIZE
There will be a winner of the month award sponsored by Kent & Curwen for the highest-scoring competitor during May, June, July, August and September. Each winner will receive a blazer, a cricket sweater, a T-shirt and a shirt worth a total of £500, plus the Sky Sports satellite package.

FREE DRAW

Everyone who enters the competition will also be given entry into a free draw which will produce five winners of Sky Sports packages. Readers who wish to enter the draw without entering the ITC competition can send their name and address on a postcard to: The Times Interactive Team Cricket Draw, PO Box 8381, London SE7 7ZF.

QUERIES AND INFORMATION

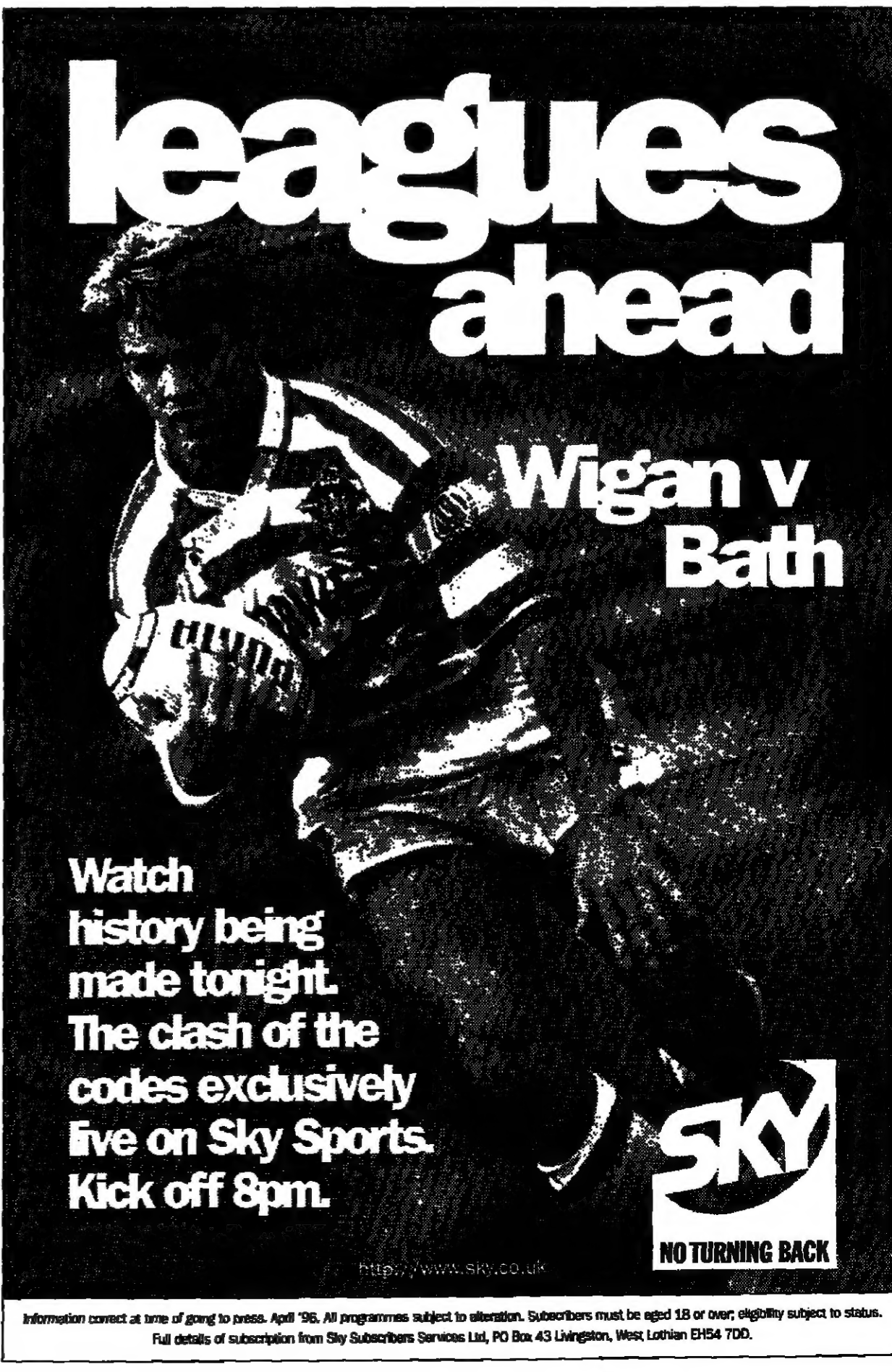
All queries regarding Interactive Team Cricket should be directed to:

01582 488122

Graphic: Geoffrey Sims

BATSMEN			
Code	Player (County)	Runs	Wickets
001	C J Adams (Derbyshire)	1066	0
002	G F Atherton (Nottinghamshire)	1171	0
003	A Aftab (Lancashire)	1322	0
004	C J Athey (Sussex)	1322	0
005	M Ashrafuddin (India - Overseas player)	1322	0
006	R J Bailey (Durham)	1322	0
007	K J Barnett (Derbyshire)	1322	0
008	M R Benson (Kent)	1322	0
009	D J Benaon (Yorkshire - Overseas player)	1322	0
010	D J Bickford (Surrey)	1322	0
011	A J Blandford (Durham)	1322	0
012	M Blythe (Somerset)	1322	0
013	M Blythe (Somerset)	1322	0
014	A D Brown (Surrey)	1322	0
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هكذا من الأصل



leagues ahead

**Wigan v
Bath**

**Watch
history being
made tonight.
The clash of the
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live on Sky Sports.
Kick off 8pm.**

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Leader of the pack reigns supreme

THE Embassy world snooker championship this year, which ended on a note of anticlimax on Monday evening, nevertheless proved beyond doubt that the standard at the game's top level is higher than it has ever been.

Admittedly, in terms of both drama and quality, Stephen Hendry's 18-12 victory over Peter Ebdon in the final was not a classic, but it would be wrong to allow one disappointing match to overshadow what was, overall, a vintage event.

From the first day of 17, when an unprecedented eight centuries were compiled, the potting and break-building were superb. Hendry's run of 125 in the final was the last of 48 three-figure scores. The previous record for centuries at the Crucible Theatre was 35, set in 1993 and 1994.

Hendry, by his own admission, was more satisfied with his general performance when

capturing his five previous titles. Yet the Scot still managed to construct 11 centuries this year, only one short of the record he put together en route to victory last year.

Hendry has now fashioned 349 hundreds in competition since turning professional in 1985. He thereby dominates the all-time century list, 99 ahead of Steve Davis, who joined the paid ranks seven years earlier.

Ronnie O'Sullivan, whose off-table exploits attracted more attention than his impressive break-building, made nine centuries before losing 16-14 to Ebdon, who himself registered eight, in the semi-finals. O'Sullivan's penultimate century was his hundredth.

He thus joined an exclusive club of seven members. Willie Thorne may have beaten O'Sullivan to the milestone by three months, at the International Open in February, but

Phil Yates says all statistics confirm the world champion as snooker's nonpareil

having turned professional in 1975, the seasoned campaigner from Leicester did enjoy the benefit of a 17-year start.

Yet purely in terms of his century strike-rate over a season, Hendry inhabits a league of his own. He has already chalked up 51 this season and requires only three more in the European Matchroom League play-offs, at Irthlingborough this weekend, to break his own record.

To put that figure into perspective, Jimmy White, rightly renowned as a silky scorer, boasts a personal best

of only 30, a total he reached in 1990-91.

It was once said, about economics rather than snooker, that there are lies, damn lies and statistics but Hendry's career numbers, when it comes to combining the frequency of his titles, centuries and, indeed, total prize-money, provide compelling evidence that he is both the most skilful and successful player the game has known.

Hendry, who by defeating Ebdon extended his unbeaten sequence of matches at the Crucible to 25, also joined Davis and Ray Reardon as the youngest winners at the Crucible in the modern era. He has now banked £4,824,175 — more than £1 million of which has been earned from the world championship alone.



Hendry: centuries galore

If Hendry can retain the necessary motivation, he will surely end his career having set new marks in virtually every statistical group. The youngest winner at the Crucible remains the world No 1 for a seventh consecutive season and his pre-eminence remains unchallenged.

"I think I've got the capability to win a few more trophies yet," Hendry said after completing a grand slam of the game's most prestigious events this season, having already made a successful defence of the United Kingdom championship and regained the Benson and Hedges Masters.

"Over the past couple of weeks I haven't been at my best and I have been constantly reminded of it in the press. What they don't realise is that by saying such things they are complimenting me," Hendry said yesterday. "You know, it's great for your confidence when second best is still good enough."

Ebdon is in no doubt of Hendry's position. "Stephen's the greatest player ever and now I'll be able to tell my grandchildren I once had the privilege of meeting him in the world final," he said.

Simon Barnes, page 43

Richmond take a costly stride into professional game

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHMOND, one of the founding clubs of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), wiped their hands of amateurism yesterday when they displayed newly-acquired talent worth an estimated £500,000. They did so at the Café Royal in London, where they were formed 135 years ago, which added to the symbolic departure to professionalism.

Even as they placed Ben Clarke and Scott Quinnell on centre stage with three other newcomers, Richmond's position in the new scheme of things remained uncertain. They are members of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd (EPRUC), which does not want to play in the RFU's domestic competitions under its present structure next season, and yesterday EPRUC and its Welsh counterpart declared they were boycotting the European Cup competition "announced last week by the five nations."

"We are not in favour of a breakaway," Symon Elliott, the Richmond chief executive, said, "but I am sympathetic with the aims of EPRUC and it has our full support at the negotiating table with the RFU." Nonetheless, as things stand neither the leading English nor Welsh clubs — among whom Richmond seek a place — will be playing official matches next season.

A resumption of talks between the clubs and the RFU is imminent and Richmond,

having agreed long-term contracts believed to be worth over six figures, with Clarke, the Bath and England No 8, and Quinnell, once of Llanelli and Wales, now of Wigan Rugby League Club, must hope for a speedy conclusion.

In addition, Richmond have signed Richard West, the Gloucester lock capped once by England during the World Cup last year, Jim Fallon, the Leeds rugby league wing, who also played for Bath and Richmond during his union career, and Darren Crompton, the young Bath prop. The package the second-division newcomers (they signed Adrian Davies and Andy Moore from Cardiff last month) are putting together is a greater single coup than even wealthy Newcastle have achieved thus far.

A further international signing is possible and Richmond

have been in talks with Scott Gibbs, formerly of Swansea and Wales and now playing rugby league for St Helens. Their outlay, the result of a £2.5 million injection by the Monaco-based millionaire, Ashley Levett, must grow since their plans include a youthful director of rugby in John Kingston, their present coach, a 15,000-seat stadium, an academy of youth and an ambition to become the Manchester United of rugby.

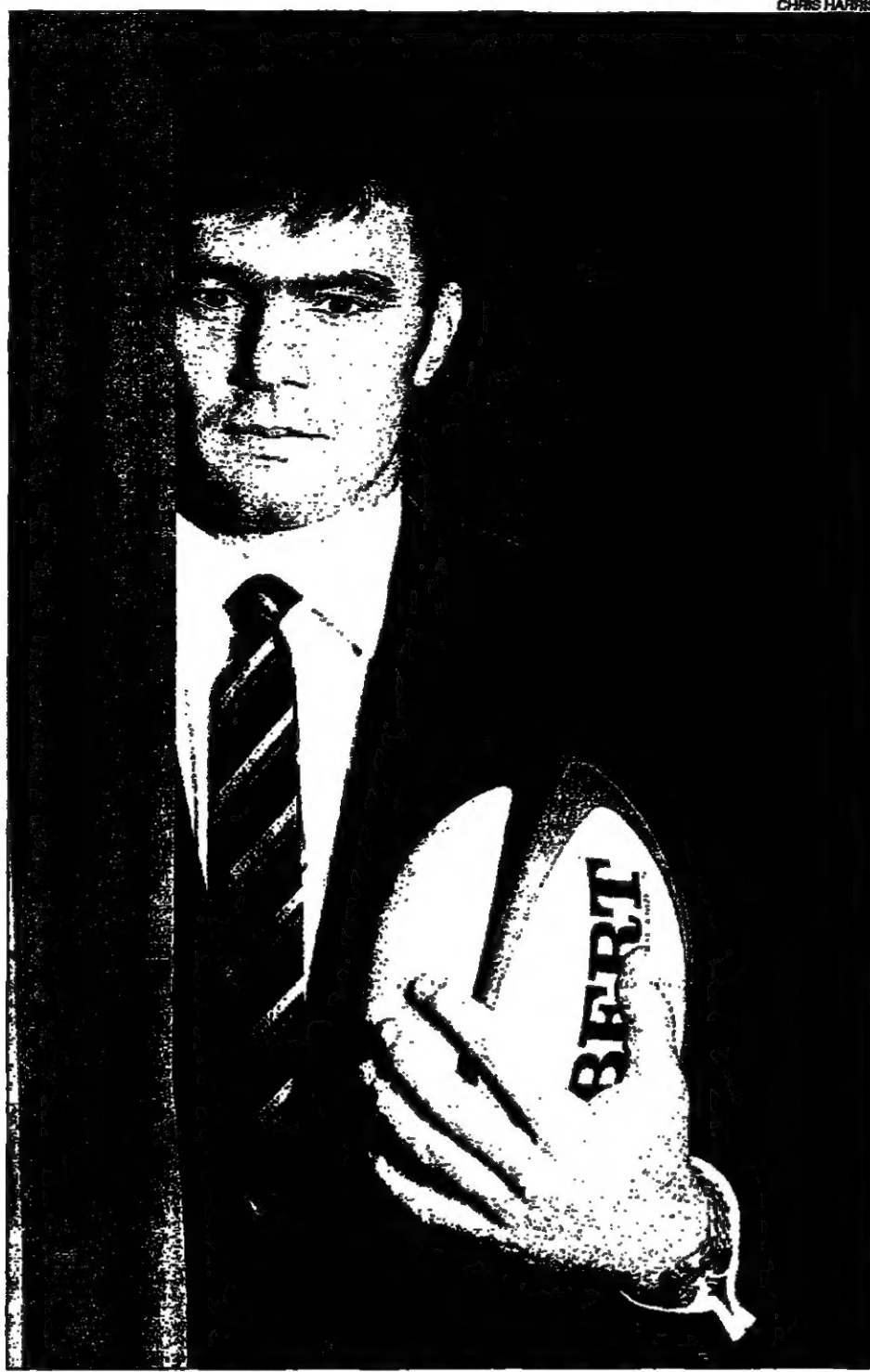
Leicester yesterday announced the signing of Craig Joiner, the Melrose wing capped 16 times by Scotland. Scotland plans to offer loyalty payments in the hope of steering the drift south but, at this stage, Richmond and can take their pick of league and union clubs.

Clarke, who will captain Richmond next season, does not think his place in the England team will be jeopardised by playing second division rugby. He will play for the Barbarians against Ireland in Dublin on May 18, in a XV including the world's leading international try-scorer, David Campese and Rory Underwood.

BARBARIANS: D. Campese (New South Wales and Australia), P. Jones (North Harbour and New Zealand), P. de Oliveira (Bath and England), P. Seta (Agen and France), R. Underwood (England), S. Bishop (Otago and New Zealand), J. Ross (Ireland and South Africa), G. Rowland (Leicester and England), R. Cockerill (Leicester), D. Gerhart (Leicester), F. Pienaar (Transvaal and South Africa), G. Smith (Worcester and Australia), O. Roussie (Ox and France), L. Caluogari (Racing and France), B. Clarke (Richmond and England).



Quinnell: switch



Clarke hopes his England place will not be jeopardised by his move to Richmond

Skelton seeks Sublime ride at Windsor

By JENNY MACARTHUR

NICK SKELTON, the runner-up in the Cannes Grand Prix last weekend on Showtime, his Olympic contender, makes a rare appearance at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which begins today in the Home Park.

The five-day show, that has been bolstered by substantial financial support from BCM Worldwide, the international equestrian management company, has a record entry of

3,450. John and Michael Whitaker plus Malin Baryard, the young showjumping star from Sweden, are among the international riders appearing.

Skelton, who now competes mainly at the more lucrative shows on the Continent, will appear at only two other British events this year — Wembley in October and Olympia in December. This week he is resting Showtime and Dollar Girl, on which he was third in the World Cup

last month, and will ride Quicksat, his new stallion, and Sublime, who was placed in both Cannes and Maastricht in the past fortnight.

Skelton will decide in the next few days which to ride in the Barbours Grand Prix on Sunday, the richest event of the week, which carries a £3,200 first prize.

Michael Whitaker, whose Olympic contender, Two Step, is back in work after a two-month lay-off through injury, is hoping to see a return to

form this week of his reserve horse, Midnight Madness, who was disappointing on his last outing in Paris in March.

John Whitaker, his elder brother, will probably ride Randi, a good all-rounder, on Sunday. He is also reunited with Barrybug Cowboy Magic, a nine-year-old by Calgary.

Other leading events this week include the Harrods International Driving Grand Prix, which begins tomorrow, and the Hermes Grand Prix dressage on Friday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

SEGER

(b) Seger (also seeger) conds: each of a series of small numbered cones or pyramids made of different mixtures of refractory material and flux so that they melt at different known temperatures, used to indicate the temperature inside kilns, etc. "He used a stout iron pipe within which seeger cones were fastened at regular intervals, and thrust into the lava as far as he could."

YEDDO

(a) The former name of Tokyo, used attributively to designate materials, etc., originating there (before 1868, in which year the name was changed). "May informed me last year that the Yeddo spruce was not introduced into Europe until 1891."

SPHAIKISTIK

(b) A type of tennis first played in 1873 which was later developed into and renamed lawn-tennis. From the Greek *sphaistiké* (*techné*) (skill) in playing at ball, as exemplified by Naussica. "Sir, I have lately seen a new game played which was a great acquisition as an out-of-door amusement at country houses. The game is called Sphaistiké, or Lawn Tennis."

TWEDE NUWEJAAR

(a) The second of January, a public holiday in Cape Province, celebrated especially by the Black population. From the Afrikaans for "the second New Year". Cape Times, 1947: "The Coons are ready for the New Year — and tweede nuwejaar — that extra holiday which is taken only in the Cape."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CROSS MOVE

21 Quid: 1. Kahl 2. Rife 3. Nge and more by RHE is inevitable.

WE ARE NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE — OFFER EXTENDED TO INCLUDE EUROPE — REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM — STERLING OR US CHEQUES ONLY — (10) — £55.150. TIMES CROSSWORDS — Books 6, 10 to 13 £3.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £3.50 each. Omnibus Edn (20 puzzles) £4.99. Jumbo Books 1 and 2 (puzzles) £4.99 each. The Times Crossword — Book 2 (240 puzzles) £3.99. Books 3 to 5 £3.50 each. The Times Ten — Book 3 and 10 £3.99 each. SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books 10, 11, 12 £3.50 each. The Sunday Times Crossword Books 1, 2, 3 £3.50 each. NEW Book 5 £2.99. SPECIAL OFFER: Any 3 books for only £9. THE TIMES MAPS (Goldleaf) in magnificent colour. JUST £4.99 EACH — The World, Ireland, British Isles, Canada, Europe, N. America, S. America, Africa, China. Send cheques with order payable to Alison Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery in 8 days (UK). Tel. 0181-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

King fends off Lewis

DON KING, the flamboyant promoter, turned to the courts again yesterday to prevent his World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson, from having to make Lennox Lewis his next opponent. King's sixth appeal against a New Jersey court ruling in Lewis's favour came after the breakdown of financial negotiations to put on the bout.

Mayer proves decisive

Hockey: Chris Mayer lifted Great Britain out of adversity with a goal in the dying minutes for a 2-1 victory, their first in the Asian Shah tournament, against an inexperienced India side in Ipoh, Malaysia, yesterday. Not since the Seoul Olympic Games of 1988 had Britain defeated India. Garcia scored Britain's opening goal and Lakshman scored the equaliser.

Audi under pressure

Motor sport: The technical committee of the Auto Trader British touring car championship is to consider changing the handicap system for the series in an attempt to reduce the four-wheel drive Audi A4's performance advantage tomorrow. The Audi of Frank Biela, of Germany, has secured runaway wins in four of the six races so far.

Medvedev misses out

Tennis: Andrei Medvedev, of Russia, the winner of the Panasonic German Open for the past two years, was eliminated from the event at the second-round stage yesterday, a lacklustre performance against Jordi Burillo, of Spain, resulting in a 6-3, 6-4 defeat. Five double faults bore testament to the erratic nature of his service.

RADIO CHOICE

The big fish that got away

Your Place or Mine? Waiting for Joe Di Maggio. Radio 4, 7.45pm. It is just not true that everything comes to those who wait. Ask any one of the 5,000 inhabitants of the Sicilian fishing village of Isola della Femina. They whipped themselves into a froth of excitement to welcome Di Maggio, American baseball legend, briefly Marlon Monroe's husband and son of an Isola della Femina fisherman. The village spent \$25,000 — as much as the town hall's annual budget — on preparations. To wash the streets clean, the villagers sacrificed the water in which they would normally take a bath or boil their pasta. But then, on the eve of his visit, Di Maggio caught a cold. Whereupon, the entire population of Isola della Femina sneezed with desolation.

The Ingenious Mind of Rigby Lacksome. Radio 4, 2.00pm. In no other play will you hear that Shakespeare went by train from Stratford-upon-Avon to Paddington. Not all of the Bard though. Just the rascally Rigby Lacksome but of the blind sleuth Max Carrados, our greatest playwright would have ended up in America. Carrados, brainchild of thriller writer Ernest Bramah, is played plummy by Simon Callow. In Sue Rodwell's enjoyable dramatisation, everybody has a cockney manservant, quotes Shakespeare at the drop of a hat, something that seems to happen quite a lot in tales set in the 1930s, as this one is. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

Fill Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Arenas) Inc. at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley 9.00 Alan Parker — Road Warrior 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Martin Kellner 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ian Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thresher 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2.00 In Good Voice (2/6) 8.30 Back On the Road (3/6) 9.00 Documentary in the Afternoon (2/3) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, and 6.55, 7.35 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine with Diana Madill 12.00 Middy with Mair, and at 12.35pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.55 Ruscoe On Five, and at 3.05 Ruscoe Returns and 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, and at 4.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, and at 7.20 sport 7.25 League Meets Union: Wigan v Bath, Ian Payne introduces live commentary, from Maine Road in Manchester 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra and at 11.15 Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rastburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Sport 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor. Includes: Telemann (Flute Concerto in D), Schubert (Cello in F), Debussy: Nocturne (Caprice Espagnole); William Lloyd Webber (Vocal Sonata); 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor, Harp); Handel (Scherza Infida, Ariodante); Karłowicz (Ständchen and new Cavalcade); 10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes: Handel (Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op 6 No 1); Milford (It's Ever So Nice); Again, The Colour: So Sweet Love Seemed; 10.22 Artist of the Week: Raphael Oleg, violin, Faure (Violin Sonata No 1 in A) 10.50 Barber (Carmen "concerto"); (Fireworks); Barber (Adagio for Strings); Strauss (Four Last Songs); 12.00 Composer of the Week: Nielsen, Symphony No 2 (The Four Temperaments); Three Orchestral Excerpts (Masks); 1.00pm The Birmingham Lulltime Concert, live from Studio One, Patrice Mill. Katerina Karnaus, mezzo, Iain Burnside, piano Mozart (Dance on a Rock, K306; Overture, K105; Les Femmes, K307; Abendempfindung, K523; Das Veilchen, K476; Als Luise die Briefe, K520); Schumann (Fiancé's Liebeslied and Ich bin ein Mädchen, Op 10 No 3; Für 15 Pfennige, Op 36 No 2; Afternoon, Op 10 No 8; Cello, Op 27 No 2); 2.00 Scholes Together 2.30 Time and Tune 2.40 Drama Workshop

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News: Briefing and Weather 8.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayers for the Day 8.30 Today and 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek. The last of the present series, with Times columnist Libby Davies 10.00 News: Pildred in Ladhak (FM only). John Pildred explores the kingdom of Ladhak in India's northern frontier (1/2) 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 This Sceptre's Isle (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time 12.00pm News: You and Yours, with Lesley Rodcho 12.25 Chambers by Clive Coleman (4/5) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast) 2.00 News: The Return of Max Carrados: The Ingenious Mind of Rigby Lacksome. See Choice (1/2) 2.45 Treasures Islands, with Michael Rosen. Sarah Ament and Tony Ricci look at the underwatts 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini talks to the actor Richard Dreyfuss about his new film Mr Holland's Opus. 4.45 Silent Story: Dada's His Doo-Dee! By Henry Livings Read by Jane Whittonshaw 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 89.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158. MW 693, 809. WORLD SERVICE. FM 100.12-102.1. CLASSIC FM. FM 100.12-102.1. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 105.3, 1058. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Gregory

8.30PM TONIGHT

GHOSTHUNTERS

A Television Premiere

Do poltergeists exist? Many people claim to have witnessed violent physical damage, including doors slamming and furniture moving, all with no apparent cause. We examine this disturbing phenomenon.

Explore the world of the unknown with THE UNEXPLAINED. Only on Discovery Channel.

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Kings of the wildly extravagant frontier

Ever since the Berlin Wall came down, thriller writers have been in a hole. Border crossings, in particular, have lost a lot of their old frisson. But leave it to the all-embracing cop drama to revive the form. Cop shows can be comedies, soaps, whatever you like, and last night's new cop-in-conflict *Frontiers* (ITV) was stylish, moody, dark and cinematic, and for the first 30 minutes appeared to be taking place in a paranoid hypothetical world, something like *Blade Runner*. It was quite confusing, actually. "We're crossing the border," said grim detectives from South Morton (fictional English county). And the big sign "You are now entering West Morton" passed their vehicle in the rainy dark, they seemed to press their backs into their car seats, while the music got louder.

South Morton and West Morton are not names to conjure with, and I suppose that is the point. Created

by Sandy Welch and Stephen Pollakoff, *Frontiers* is supposed to highlight the strikingly different policing styles in bordering counties, where you might expect the same treatment from both. Thus, the set-up is this: Peter Howitt and Kevin McNally play two superintendents (one West, one South) who dislike each other and disagree about procedure. One is old-fashioned and ruggedly handsome, working on instinct; the other is Mister Technology, whose car tells him the air temperature (handy), and whose idea of solving a kidnap involves sitting in the control room of Cape Canaveral, tapping keys very fast. If an analogy for this duo is required, it comes from *Toy Story*. Howitt is Woody, the lovable cowboy; McNally is the South Lightyear, complete with wrist-laser. (I hope this analogy is helpful.)

But the sky-high production values have made *Frontiers* com-

pletely unbelievable, which is a shame. Sandy Welch's excellent script last night was sophisticated enough to tease us with cliché, and also leave things fairly messy at the end, with both cop styles proved right as well as wrong. The chase for a kidnapper played well, the minor characters beautifully played. But the exorbitant interiors of the police HQ, like futuristic building society, full of white light, must surely have caused real policemen to crack their ribs with ho-hos.

One of last night's key moments concerned the sudden appearance of an American psychological profiler, invited by Buzz. "They are always wrong!" said Woody, and stomped out. Well, tell that to the arts programmes, which last night coincidentally ventured to psychoanalyse two icons of British culture

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

But the analytic approach proved entertainingly useful in both cases. In the programme that did go out, Darian Leader asked whether Bacon's famous "Screaming Pope" series meant something deeply personal to the artist, and was pleased (though surely unsurprised) to discover that — of course — it went very deep indeed. Full fathom five your father lies, as the saying is. Because the original Pope picture that obsessed Bacon — Velazquez's *Innocent X* — bore a strong resemblance to Bacon's daughter, Spoley, etc.

Thus, the scream of those purple Pops related to his father's anger ("He was a man prone to rage," said a cousin), and also to a complex of feelings about Bacon's childhood asthma, and the death of his brother. I couldn't quite follow this bit, but somehow the gaping of the figures could be seen as breathing and suffocating rather than yelling. Personally, I still

think they are yelling. And I still think, incidentally, that an important part of the image is the electric chair he's sitting in (and gripping the arms of), with the voltage turned up high.

Finally to Floyd in Africa (BBC2), which I watched in the fervent hope that *Times* columnist Matthew Parris wasn't likewise tuning in. Recently Parris wrote in *The Spectator* about the artifice of so-called factual television, and his piece was deeply heartfelt: this was definitely a full-blooded scream, not a sharp intake of breath. His point, as I recall, was that the artifice of broadcast television is insidious: television-makers consider it innocent (indeed, simply necessary) to stage events for the camera, and thus they become so accustomed to scripting reality that finally they don't know (or care) that they are telling lies.

Well, all I can say is, don't ever

watch Keith Floyd, Matthew Parris's "breaking down" last night on a train in Madagascar — at the exact point where it passed a trackside camera — was accompanied by Floyd saying: "This is actually real." Good grief, they think we are idiots. No amount of open-air wack-stuffing can make up for that sort of malarkey. Even if the event really did take place, that handy footage from the trackside shows utter contempt for the audience. By re-staging it for the cameras (if this is what happened), they cheerfully turn a real event into a false one.

Call me Queen Tut of the Tut-people, but it all gets too much sometimes. Later, Floyd made a big deal about cooking at sunset (unseen shots of Madagascar sunset), and then served his meal on a veranda in broad daylight. How do they do that? It's what they call the magic of television.

CHOICE

East: On the Run (BBC2, 7.30pm)
The current affairs series on Asian matters continues to offer reporting of a high standard, though supporters of the Asylum and Immigration Bill may not agree. Matthew Arnold's view is that it is a behind British asylum policy by looking at the experiences of Sri Lankan Tamils. Many have fled to Britain to escape the civil war, yet despite evidence they can provide of being tortured or detained without trial, their requests for asylum are seldom granted. The Home Office view is that it is safe for them to return to Colombo, though lawyers claim that the detention and brutalisation of Tamils is worse than ever. The film also asks whether new legislation is needed when asylum applications, and the success rate, have been falling so sharply.

Sharpe: Sharpe's Siege (ITV, 8.00pm)
The French are up to their devious tricks again but Sean Bean and his gallant British refuse to be fooled. Bernard Cornwell's saga of the Napoleonic Wars continues to be a Euro-spectacle's delight. There is no nonsense here about the sturdy Brits being humiliated by capricious foreigners. The two-hour serial might stretch a less patient viewer's patience, but there are enough plots and subplots not to mention a battle or two, to fill the time and more. Up to now Sean's dashing and dilsy Major Sharpe has kept free of romantic attachments, enabling him to play the field. All that ends when he marries Jane (Abigail Crutenden). But she soon contracts the fever which is going the rounds and may not survive for hubby's return from his dashing raid on a French castle. Meanwhile, a pushy new commanding officer provides Sharpe with an adversary nearer home.

Modern Times: Househusbands (BBC2, 9.00pm)
Identify a recent social trend, find three neatly contrasting examples to illustrate it, and you have the model formula for a documentary. Sonoma Williams' film about men who stay at home while their wives go out to work does not disappoint. It helps that the couples involved are prepared to speak honestly. This particularly applies to Nick and Clare. He was a merchant banker who was made redundant and unable to get another job. As he understandably, became depressed and vegetated, she found herself having to support the family. Although making wedding dresses is something she enjoys, the role-reversal is clearly not to her liking and marriage has come under strain. Still shell-shocked after five years without work, he can only reflect that many men are finding the 1990s confusing.

Postcards from the Country: The Village (BBC2, 9.50pm)
Richard Mabey's series was made by the BBC Natural History Unit but is more about people than flora and fauna. Through personal memories, film and photographs, it sets out to chart changes in British rural life over the past 50 years. Mabey begins in Kent, where senior citizens conjure up an idyllic past of cherry orchards, traditional crafts, dancing round the maypole and cricket on the green. So this survives but the Eurostar train pounding through the countryside past redundant castles houses is to many a potent symbol of unwelcome change. Even so, you wonder whether the supposedly good old days were really that tranquil. The good days recounted here, between the locals and the hop-pickers who poured in each summer from the London East End suggest that even in the Garden of England village life has its darker side. Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (BBC2/4)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7743663)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2300224)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (645801)
10.35 This Morning (50077595)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1074886)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (4736359)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (4704750) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (1020601) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (19895427)
2.25 FILM: Always Remember I Love You (1990) starring Patty Duke, Stephen Dorff and David Birney. The first of a two part drama about a teenager whose world begins to crumble when he discovers that the people he thought were his mother and father are not his biological parents. Concludes tomorrow. Directed by Michael Miller (7689953) (4704750)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7029798)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7029699)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (2833969)
3.40 Wizardia (s) (1459750) 3.50 Britt Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Narnia (s) (s) (8233935) 4.05 Garfield and Friends (s) (8234934) 4.10 The Adventures of Captain Zeig (s) (6148392) 4.40 Spellbinder (Teletext) (2407514)
5.10 A Country Practice (9987311)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (598917)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (189750)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (767934)
7.00 Wish You Were Here... Lesley Joseph cruises around the Caribbean on a new luxury liner, Judith Chalmers embarks on a four-wheel-drive treasure hunt in Llangollen, Cwyd, and John Carter visits Savannah, Georgia (Teletext) (s) (4555)
7.30 Coronation Street. Alec tries to bolster Vicky's morale (Teletext) (663)

6.00am Open University: Maths (7340972)
6.25 Chemistry (7336779) 6.50 The Leaping Horse by John Constable (535292)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4740040)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Teletext) (11514) 8.00 The Lowdown (s) (Teletext) (s) (7408446) 8.25 Wrestling (s) (s) (5476359)
8.40 The Record (s) (8960021)
9.05 Daytime on Two: I'd Paris (4652224) 9.25 Job Bank (4672058) 9.30 Words and Pictures (5203059) 10.00 Playdays (2323175) 10.25 Numberline (2434224) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (2516224) 11.00 Teaching Today (5798) 11.30 The Shape of the World (3387040) 12.05pm The Spanish Collection (7274511) 12.30 Working Lunch (26359) 1.00 The Geography Programme (5519982) 1.20 Zia Zia: An African Country (5510078) 1.45 Come Outside (5290785)
2.00 Wishing. Animation (s) (s) (44990205)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7253392)
3.00 News (Teletext) and weather (7012408) 3.05 Westminster (Teletext) (9694717) 3.55 News (Teletext) and weather (6156852)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (224) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! (s) (408) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Teletext) (s) (4655175)
5.40 A Week to Remember. 1956 (b/w) (325595)
5.50 More Secret Gardens. A visit to the less well-known gardens that surround Hedingham Hall, near Stowmarket in Suffolk. Last in the series (810091)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (Teletext) (s) (978953)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (s) (38412)
7.30 East. The night of St Lankan Tamil refugees seeking sanctuary in Britain (Teletext) (s) (137)
8.00 More Rhodes Around Britain. The chef Gary Rhodes continues his culinary tour of Britain with a visit to a Belfast bar and a large family house in Drenagh, Limerick (s) (Teletext) (s) (6717)
8.30 Home Front. How to make the most of cupboard space: how to turn a loo seat into a work of art and the secrets of chair-making (Teletext) (s) (5224)
9.00 Modern Times — Househusbands (Teletext) (s) (280021)



Sean Bean as Major Sharpe (8.00pm)

8.00 Sharpe: Sharpe's Siege (Teletext) (s) (5098)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (82423)
10.30 Regional News and weather (825175)
10.40 FILM: La Bamba (1987). Musical biopic starring Lou Diamond Phillips as the young Mexican-American Richie Valens. Directed by Luis Valdez (s) (1299898)
12.35 God's Gift (9821712) 1.35 Dear Dad (s) (s) (347928)
3.05 FILM: Dogs to the Rescue (1998) starring Tony Kramelthier, Dorine Dron and Draga Ojcaru. A man arranges for his brother to die in a car crash, so that he can take over the family property. Directed by Paul Fitts-Nelson (7554652)
4.30 The Time... the Place (s) (53860)
5.00 Cover Story (s) (59335)
5.30 Morning News (767944)

As HTV West except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (767934)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story Brian Coomes, a bard of the Gorsedd (1082855)
12.55 Coronation Street (4704750)
1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (31477953)
1.55 Home and Away (39759868)
2.25 Brief Encounters. Ruth Langford sails up the River Exe (1998514)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (5782798)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9987311)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (98578)
10.40 Robert Lenkiewicz: Demon or Delight? An assessment of the controversial Plymouth-based artist, recorded at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth (817448)
11.40 Hunter (917205)

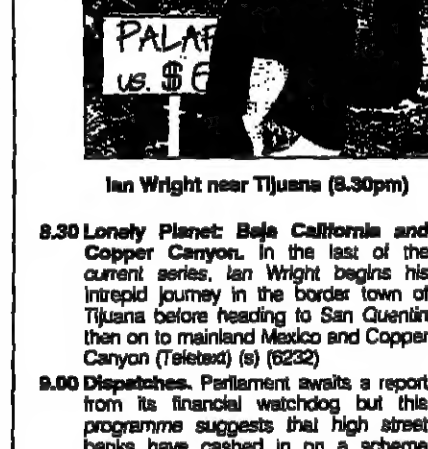
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
1.25 Cross Wits (31477953)
1.55 A Country Practice (5942224)
2.20 Right or Wrong (1099243)
2.50-3.20 Our House (2513243)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9987311)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (767934)
10.40 FILM: Farewell to the King (1299868)
12.35pm Bushell on the Box (9662268)
2.10 Dear Nick (9271480)
3.05 In Focus (2358480)
3.50 Jobfinder (2137063)
5.20 Asian Eye (3211712)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Coronation Street (4704750)
1.25 Home and Away (31477953)
1.55 Shortland Street (9942224)
2.20 Murder, She Wrote (726882)
3.15-3.20 Three Minutes — Making It Happen (702855)
5.10 Home and Away (9987311)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Fressoreen (902852)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (427)
6.30-7.00 Animal Country (779)
10.40 The Road Show (622514)
11.10 Meridian Audit (419088)
12.10pm Good Advice (371538)
5.00 Fressoreen (59335)

Starts: 6.35 Sherry and George (5368175)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23359) 9.00 The Pink Panther (7771448) 9.25 Film: Lydia (4189224) 11.15 Hotel Hawkstone (5594895) 11.30 Australia Wild (2595) 12.00 House to House (53156) 12.30pm Westwood (11427) 1.00 Slot Machine (28448) 1.30 Poor Mans Pig (3977271) 1.55 Bush Tucker Man (4138040) 2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Chester (72158) 4.30 Classic Trucks (578) 5.00 5 Pump: Cattle (945082) 5.15 5 Pump: Field (4757175) 5.30 Fifteen to One (155) 6.00 Newyddion (522934) 6.15 News (416798) 7.00 Pobl Y Cwm (29842) 7.25 Portreadu: Islyn Ffowc Eila (430412) 8.00 Haulio (1885) 8.30 Newyddion (5232) 9.00 Encounters: Plague Doctors (3359) 10.00 Brookside (44885) 10.30 E.R. (48068) 11.30 Cyffil (75224) 12.00 Nightspots (5523267)

6.35am Sherry and George (s) (5368175)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23359)
9.00 The Pink Panther (s) (7771448)
9.25 FILM: Lydia (1941, b/w). Romantic drama with Merle Oberon recalling previous affairs with Joseph Cotten, Alan Marshal, George Reeves and Hans Jany. Directed by Julian Duvivier (Teletext) (4189224)
11.15 Hotel Hawkstone. A woman books a holiday in a New Zealand hotel, only to arrive and find it's not built (5594895)
11.30 Australia Wild (2595) 12.00 House to House (53156) 12.30 Sesame Street (s) (25089) 1.30 Madeline (s) (3977271)
1.55 Bush Tucker Man (s) (4138040)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Chester, including the Oaks at 3.10pm (s) (72158)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (578)
5.00 Ricki Lake (1078972)
5.45 Terrytoons. Deputy Dawg (333514)
6.00 Blossom (s) (Teletext) (s) (16392)
6.25 Home Improvement. American comedy with Tim Allen (s) (Teletext) (174311)
6.55 Murrin Buchanansang (103381)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (825717)
7.55 The Slot (970137)
8.00 Brookside. Tempers flare when Jackie confronts Ben about the gossiping (Teletext) (s) (1885)

Lonely Planet: Baja California and Copper Canyon. In the last of the current series, Ian Wright begins his intrepid journey in the border town of Tijuana before heading to San Quentin then on to mainland Mexico and Copper Canyon (Teletext) (s) (8232)
9.00 Dispatches. Parliament awaits a report from its financial watchdog but this programme suggests that high street banks have cashed in on a scheme designed to meet the transport needs of people with disabilities (325895)
9.45 Four-Meaties. Great British Animation. Aired by Barry Purves and Laurie, by Geoff Dumble (s) (158972)
10.00 E.R. Gordon finally decides to act on Vucelich and his fraudulent study. (Teletext) (s) (8445)
11.00 Friends. Rachel accidentally lets Ross's pet monkey escape and the friends have to form a search party (s) (Teletext) (s) (6175)
11.30 Cheers. When Sam's goddaughter moves to Boston to attend college, Sam foolishly decides that Woody, his safe bet to chop-chop her around town (s) (Teletext) (s)
12.00 Nightspots. Gary Imrich presents the through-the-night spots feast. Includes the Phillips auctioneer who will be conducting the sale of Brian Johnston's cricketer memorabilia (5523267). Ends at 6.00am

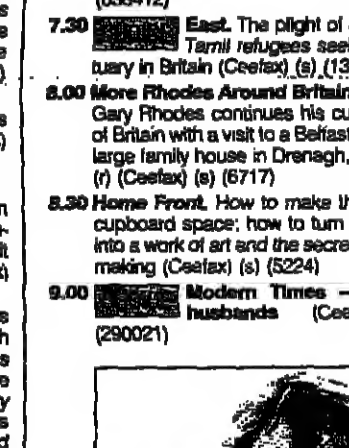


Ian Wright near Tijuana (8.30pm)

9.45 Four-Meaties. Great British Animation. Aired by Barry Purves and Laurie, by Geoff Dumble (s) (158972)
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BBC
6.00am Business Breakfast (99750)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Teletext) (80021)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Teletext) (4655311)
9.40 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7768972)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (5092514)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (80175)
12.00 News (Teletext) and weather (1078682)
12.05pm Rooms for Improvement (s) (5210514)
12.35 Going for Gold. Harry Kelly introduces more contestants in the general knowledge quiz (s) (4708394)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Teletext) and weather (20888)
1.30 Regional News and weather (9297405)
1.40 Neighbours (Teletext) (s) (89418021)
2.00 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (s) (87717)
3.30 Playdays (s) (2737953) 3.50 The Silver Brumby (s) (2748089) 4.15 Funniesome (s) (s) (2492882) 4.20 Jonny Briggs (s) (s) (3250446) 4.35 Rugrats (s) (Teletext) (s) (2033798) 5.00 Noddyland (Teletext) (4655311) 5.10 Blue Peter (Teletext) (s) (8334137)
5.35 Neighbours. Mark can't keep up with the pace. Annalise has on a new project for Annjo Promotions (s) (Teletext) (510578)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Teletext) (358)
6.30 Regional News magazines (311)
7.00 Relatively Speaking. Gordon Burns hosts the fast-paced quiz show in which players from three generations search for words to unlock puzzles and problems (Teletext) (s) (9427)
7.30 Here and Now. Sue Lawley and the team present another hard-hitting investigation (Teletext) (s) (595)
8.00 Casualty: Chasing the Dragon. Hospital drama series. Two homeless girls are drawn into a murky world where the mysterious Steph seems to be running a sinister scheme (s) (Teletext) (s) (846021)
8.50 Points of View. Viewers' opinions presented by Anne Robinson (Teletext) (s) (83972)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Teletext) (8392)
9.30 Madson. (4/5) John Madson (an McShane) tries to help Gordon's sister-in-law, who is being evicted from her bedsit by an unscrupulous landlord. (Teletext) (s) (542381)
10.20 Sportsnight. Rugby League: highlights of the first Rugby Challenge match, between Wigan and Bath. Tonight's match is under league rules, with the union-code return at Twickenham on May 25; Football: the European Cup Winners Cup Final, between Paris St Germain and Rapid Vienna. Plus a look forward to Saturday's FA Cup Final and a review of the Premiership season (s) (355427)
11.55 FILM: Breakheart (1983). Starring Christopher Walken, Louise Fletcher and Natalie Wood (her final film). Sinister forces are trying to take over a scientific invention which can replay thoughts and emotions. Features outstanding special effects. Directed by Douglas Trumbull (Teletext) (s) (104040)
1.25am Weather (3310151)

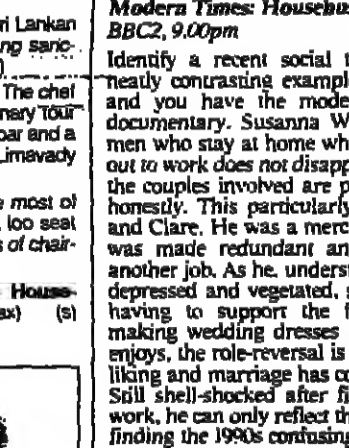
ITV
6.00am Open University: Maths (7340972)
6.25 Chemistry (7336779) 6.50 The Leaping Horse by John Constable (535292)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4740040)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Teletext) (11514) 8.00 The Lowdown (s) (Teletext) (s) (7408446) 8.25 Wrestling (s) (s) (5476359)
8.40 The Record (s) (8960021)
9.05 Daytime on Two: I'd Paris (4652224) 9.25 Job Bank (4672058) 9.30 Words and Pictures (5203059) 10.00 Playdays (2323175) 10.25 Numberline (2434224) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (2516224) 11.00 Teaching Today (5798) 11.30 The Shape of the World (3387040) 12.05pm The Spanish Collection (7274511) 12.30 Working Lunch (26359) 1.00 The Geography Programme (5519982) 1.20 Zia Zia: An African Country (5510078) 1.45 Come Outside (5290785)
2.00 Wishing. Animation (s) (s) (44990205)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7253392)
3.00 News (Teletext) and weather (7012408) 3.05 Westminster (Teletext) (9694717) 3.55 News (Teletext) and weather (6156852)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (224) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! (s) (408) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Teletext) (s) (4655175)
5.40 A Week to Remember. 1956 (b/w) (325595)
5.50 More Secret Gardens. A visit to the less well-known gardens that surround Hedingham Hall, near Stowmarket in Suffolk. Last in the series (810091)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (Teletext) (s) (978953)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (s) (38412)
7.30 East. The night of St Lankan Tamil refugees seeking sanctuary in Britain (Teletext) (s) (137)
8.00 More Rhodes Around Britain. The chef Gary Rhodes continues his culinary tour of Britain with a visit to a Belfast bar and a large family house in Drenagh, Limerick (s) (Teletext) (s) (6717)
8.30 Home Front. How to make the most of cupboard space: how to turn a loo seat into a work of art and the secrets of chair-making (Teletext) (s) (5224)
9.00 Modern Times — Househusbands (Teletext) (s) (280021)



Richard Mabey visits Kent (8.50pm)

9.50 Postcards from the Country (Teletext) (s) (830137)
10.30 Newsnight (Teletext) (84205)
11.15 Murder One (s) (Teletext) (s) (209798)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (89488)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

ITV
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Sean Bean as Major Sharpe (8.00pm)

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4.00 Today

Cross-code challenge kicks off

Bath's control put to test in another league

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CURIO or freak show? Whichever, the first of the cross-code challenge matches between Wigan and Bath, at Maine Road tonight, will address half the argument about sport's great untested rivalry without really answering any questions. Under rugby league rules, Wigan should run riot, before the jamboree divers to Twickenham, on May 25, and Bath come into their element.

Greater interest centres on the rugby union leg, for the simple reason that Wigan should give Bath more of a run for the £500,000 the matches will put into depleted coffers at either club, than Bath are capable of providing Wigan, without the benefit of any league experience. The scoreboard will be tested by the "home" side more than Manchester City managed in the football season.

In a recent mock league game, Bath were beaten six tries to four by the South Wales reserve XIII. After only their fifth league training session yesterday, Brian Ashton, Bath's coach, was candid in

his assessment. "The players have found adapting far more difficult than they realised," he said. "There have been problems at the play-the-ball, marking up, and getting back the ten metres after each tackle. But where we've struggled most is the defensive alignment."

While some union pundits worry for Wigan's safety in the scrums, the fear of a hopeless mismatch in the first encounter is a genuine one. All the

Richmond stars sign — 46

one-sided contest will prove it that the twain, for all the talk of a coming together, cannot meet on such unequal terms. Neither will Twickenham be a level playing field, when Wigan grapple with the complexities of ruck, maul and lineout. The exercise, therefore, rests on pride, the pluck of both clubs in rising to very different challenges, and the historical context of two matches, unthinkable before last August, when rugby union began its

difficult embrace of professionalism.

Tonight, at least, there is the chance to see what a consummate professional outfit can do, with a leading bookmaker refusing to offer a price on Wigan winning.

This evening also establishes new ground, as the only previous league v union matches, in 1943 and 1944, were played under union laws. The league sides won on both occasions.

Now, 100 years of feuding since league's breakaway in 1895 have given way to free movement between the codes — a development reinforced yesterday by Richmond's capture of Scott Quinnell and Jim Fallon back from league.

In these heady, turbulent times, how long will it be before union clubs with money to spend can tempt established league players? Gary Connolly, at Wigan, continues to be a target and Bath and Orrell are looking at Bobbie Goulding, of St Helens. As the bridgehead between the codes continues to build, what price one game, for global television consumption, in the next decade?

Yet, for all that the games are supposedly coming together and they have incorporated league tactics this season, Bath have found it utterly alien. After the effort of their Courage Clubs Championship and Pilkington Cup triumphs, tonight will provide a severe test of stamina.

Wigan, Bath have opted for pace, but Andy Robinson, who made 11 tackles in the Cup final last Saturday, will be expected to make three times that number at loose forward. Sanders is a scrum half turned hooker for the night, while Callard, normally full back, has the unenviable task of opposing Shaun Edwards at scrum half. "It's because he's the same sort of fiery individual," Ashton said, mischievously.

Edwards plays to win no matter how indifferent the opposition. He will ask no favours of Brian Campsall, refereeing at Twickenham, nor expect Russell Smith to show any leniency to Bath tonight. "If they can't make the ten metres, you can't let them off because it's a special game," he said. "If we go the wrong side of the ruck in the union game, I'd expect us to get penalised."

While Bath are working out answers to the wizardry of Paul, the power of the converted Tuigamala and speed of Jason Robinson, Offiah and Connolly, the question of better code will still remain one of personal preference, on a rare night when both meet as one.

WIGAN: K. Radcliffe, J. Robinson, V. Tuigamala, G. Connolly, T. O'Connor, S. Sanders, A. Forster, S. Substitutes: R. Smith, C. Murdoch, A. Johnston.

BATH: A. Lumsden, J. Selpholme, F. Walters, P. de Gierville (captain), A. Adeniyi, M. Catt, J. Callard, K. Yates, I. Sanders, A. Vandy, M. Nisus, G. O'Connell, A. Robinson, S. Substitutes: R. Ebdens, N. Robinson, A. McCarthy, E. Pearce. Referee: R. Smith (Coventry)



Making strides: Pollock, who took five Derbyshire wickets, provided further evidence of his potential yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Pollock puts Malcolm in the shade

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EDGBASTON (Derbyshire won toss): Warwickshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire by eight wickets

DEVON MALCOLM, gored by the words of Raymond Illingworth, the England chairman of selectors, in South Africa last winter, endured another public humiliation in this Benson and Hedges Cup match yesterday. On a day when Shaun Pollock, the 22-year-old Warwickshire all-rounder, took five wickets, the Derbyshire fast bowler conceded 54 runs in five overs and appeared a soul in torment. The batting of Knight and Neil Smith took the form of bear-baiting and Malcolm could not even raise a growl. He was never going to

figure in the selectors' thoughts before the first Test against India, to be played on this ground next month, but his wretched winter has not sapped him of all self-respect. If, out of curiosity, Illingworth wants to know how he is bowling, then David Graveney, a member of the selection panel, can supply first-hand evidence, though there were times yesterday when he might have wanted to look the other way.

Knight took three boundaries from Malcolm's first over. By the time he had bowled two more, Malcolm had conceded 29 runs and Jones thought it was time he took a blow in the outfield. When he returned, Knight pulled him twice for four and drove another couple of boundaries through cover. In the next over, he pulled a six

off the front foot, the most insulting stroke to offer a fast bowler, even on a pitch of little pace.

Malcolm went on to hold the catch when Knight, on 91, hit a steeping drive to mid-on.

Lancashire qualify — 45
Kent stay unbeaten — 45

but it was no real compensation. The batsmen had taken 42 runs off him in boundaries and reduced him to the rank of trundler. What does a captain say to his fastest bowler after such treatment? Malcolm cannot shed his years, and — as Illingworth knows, and publicly said in South Africa — he cannot absorb much that people tell him anyway.

When, after 15 overs, Jones could finally drop his fielders back, Warwickshire were 130 without loss and victory, which takes them through to the quarter-finals, was safely theirs. Before Smith was bowled, driving at Aldred, he and Knight had shared 162 runs, a record start for any Warwickshire wicket in this competition.

Smith needed only 53 balls for his 80, hitting 13 boundaries. For this bright little contribution, and for his two wickets midway through the Derbyshire innings, he won the gold award, although Pollock had as good a claim.

EDGBASTON SCOREBOARD	
DERBYSHIRE	WARWICKSHIRE
*D J Knight c Pollock b Reeve 64	N V Knight c Malcolm b Aldred 91
K J Barnett c Piper b Pollock 5	P A Smith not out 80
C J Adams c Piper b Pollock 1	P A Smith not out 15
J A Owen b N M K Smith 48	W G Jones not out 11
C M Wells c Khan b Reeve 6	Extras (lb 2, w 6, nb 4) 11
10 M K Smith b N M K Smith 20	Total (2 wickets, 23.3 overs) 194
D G Gork b Pollock 16	Score after 15 overs: 130-0
D G Gork b Pollock 16	T L Penney, "D A Reeve, S M Pollock, D P Brown, T J Piper, A F Giles and T A Munton did not bat.
P A Smith not out 3	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-162, 2-187.
D E Malcolm not out 1	BOWLING: Malcolm 5-0-54-0; Cork 4-0-22-0; Aldred 5-0-35-2; Jones 2-0-16-0; Wells 1-0-7-0; Griffith 4-0-42-0; Barnett 2-0-14-0.
Some (lb 12, w 3, nb 4) 18	Umpires: K E Palmer and R A White.
Total (48.4 overs) 198	Gold award: N M K Smith
Score after 15 overs: 51-2	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-27, 3-132, 4-142, 5-144, 6-145, 7-174, 8-184, 9-189.	
BOWLING: Pollock 5-1-36-0; Brown 10-3-26-0; Oles 5-0-33-0; Munton 5-0-23-0; Reeve 5-1-24-2; N M K Smith 5-0-37-2.	

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

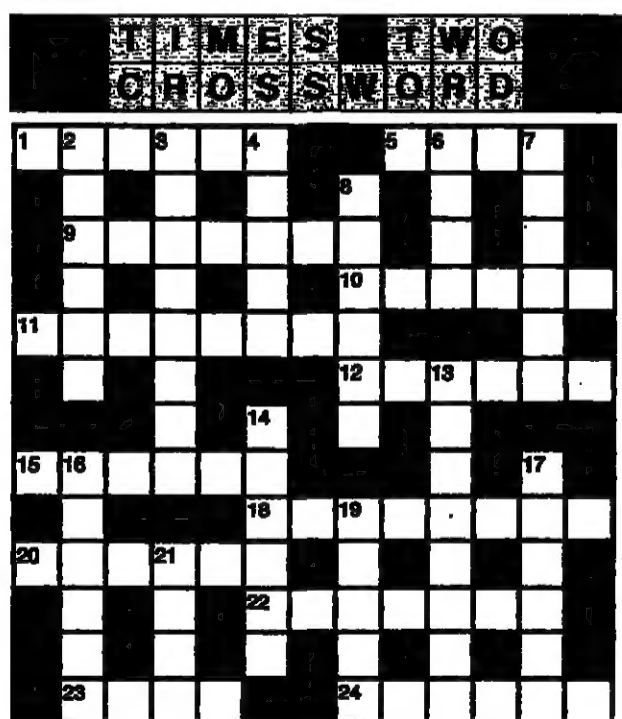
Memo to Bath

There are no rucks, mauls or lineouts in which to hide. Scrummages are few, but notional. The 13-man code is a game for 17, with four substitutes, and up to six inter-changes allowed. Forwards, especially, will need a breather. Retreat ten metres after making each tackle, and have two players marking Wigan at the play-the-ball. A kick in the defensive line and Wigan will be through.

In possession, make ground on the six tackles and

kick into the corners on the last. Have two players in on every tackle, one going high, the other low. Do not tackle above head height, nor deliberately hold down a tackled opponent. Persistent offenders can expect ten minutes in the sin-bins.

Four points for a try, two points for conversions and penalty goals and a point for a dropped goal. Hairline try decisions will be ruled by the video referee. Finally, eat your interval oranges in the dressing-room, not on the pitch.



No 776

ACROSS

- Public speaker (6)
- Unfreeze (4)
- Present self at airport (5,2)
- Area ruled: field of activity (6)
- (Naive) philanthropist (2-4)
- Mesh with (6)
- Othello's lieutenant (6)
- Ruler with unlimited powers (8)
- Water-heater (6)
- Inference: Cortes's men's was wild (Keats) (7)
- Breakwater: burrowing animal (4)
- Covering for blade (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 775

- ACROSS: 1 Populist 5 Bash 9 Out like a light 10 Coin 11 Matilda 13 Assist 15 Nausea 18 Grapple 20 Sump 23 Root and branch 24 Onyx 25 Transmitt

DOWN

- DOWN: 1 Poop 2 Patio 3 Leibniz 4 Steamy 6 Angelus 7 Hathaway 8 Star 12 Kangaroo 14 Shadowy 16 Also-ran 17 Renter 19 Pest 21 Minut 22 Shut

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 771

- ACROSS: 1 Midlands 5 Cahn 9 Awful 10 Niagara 11 Macadam 12 Actor 13 Offenbach 18 Anvil 20 Impasse 22 Caption 23 Stand 24 Turk 25 Straddle DOWN: 1 Miasma 2 De facto 3 Allied 4 Don't mention it 6 Aweil 7 Mesagre 8 Banana 14 Fulle 15 Husband 16 Mascot 17 Meddle 19 Viper 21 Pasta.

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2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is A Shaltrim, Puddington, London. All flights subject to availability.

Fry's bring-and-buy closes down

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BARRY FRY, king of football's wheeler-dealers, will no longer conduct business for Birmingham City. He was dismissed yesterday, only two days after receiving the dreaded vote of confidence from David Sullivan, co-owner of the Endersleigh Insurance League club.

Sullivan, speaking after the 2-1 home defeat by Reading on Sunday, which left Birmingham in fifteenth place in the first division, said: "We will start next season with Barry as manager unless he decides otherwise." Forty-eight hours later, Sullivan made the decision for him.

"It has been made with the deepest sadness, but we want to get into the Premiership and we feel that, to achieve that, we need to change our manager," Sullivan said. "Barry worked so hard and gave so much commitment,

but our results over the past six months have been poor and our recent form has been atrocious. He is a lovely person and I'm sure he'll find success in the Auto Windcreens Shield."

Fry, 51, signed 61 players for Birmingham after moving from Southend United in De-

cember 1993. Juggling his squad with admirable dexterity, he led the club to the second-division championship in the 1994-95 season and also success in the Auto Windcreens Shield.

His lust for doing deals — Birmingham have used approaching 50 players this season — and chirpy, rent-a-quote character guaranteed that St Andrew's was never far away from the public consciousness. His often heated disagreements with Sullivan and Kevin Brady, the club's managing director, also provided plenty of idle chit-chat for the sporting gossip columns.

However, after rising to third place in the first division on Boxing Day, Birmingham slid into free-fall and even Fry's renowned business acumen and powers of motivation appeared unable to stop the rot. Selling Steve Claridge, the popular striker, and Liam Daish, the central defender,

did little to appease his growing band of critics, but Fry kept on buying. Martin Grainger, John Cornforth and Paul Peschisoldo joined shortly before the transfer deadline in March, taking his spending past £6 million in 2½ years.

It was the re-signing of Peschisoldo, the husband of Brady, who had been sold to Stoke City for £800,000 in 1994, that caused most consternation. "I'm in charge of running and picking the team and despite what some people may have suggested, my decision to sign Paul was purely a football one," Fry said.

Birmingham want a "top-flight" replacement, with Trevor Francis, a former City player, and George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, leading the candidates. Perhaps significantly, Sullivan also said on Sunday: "I have heard the rumour about George Graham but there is no possibility of that happening."



Fry: wheeler-dealer

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